■ WORLD / A10
EU declares avian flu global threat; it's unstoppable via migratory birds, say experts

■ NEWS / A2
SC junks bid to stop NorthRail, says lower court is proper venue

■ SPORTS / A19
La Salle liaison, ex-coaching staff member accused in eligibility scandal

■ METRO / A17
2 bogus doctors arrested in QC for botched breast surgery

How family on a P16,700 income can cope with VAT

By Norman Bordadora

LIKE MOST FILIPINOS, COUPLE REX AND Marie San Diego, both public school teachers, are bracing for harder times with the implementation of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) law on Nov. 1.

"It's all right if we're the only ones affected.

HOW/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Senators to GMA: Collect, spend VAT revenues wisely

LAWMAKERS YESTERDAY URGED PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to ease the burden of the expanded value-added tax on the people quickly by providing emergency aid, collecting taxes efficiently and spending the revenues wisely.

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II pressed the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs

SENATORS/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Thursday, October 20, 2005 | ★★ | 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 314 | P18 | website: www.inq7.net

Rosales backs dispersal of rally led by 3 bishops

By Christian V. Esguerra

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO ROSALES yesterday declared unexpected support for the violent dispersal of a procession led last week by three bishops, other members of the clergy, and former Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Rosales all but defended the Philippine National Police's use of a water cannon to disperse the procession that its participants had insisted on ending in two churches on Mendiola Street near Malacañang.

"We need a little order. A government cannot exist with a climate of anarchy," the archbishop told reporters in a press conference, his first public appearance since the implementation of the Arroyo administration's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy.

"There's no such thing as absolute freedom. Every [person's] freedom is conditioned by the rights of another," he said.

Rosales said the Arroyo administration was correct in requiring organizers of a protest action to seek a permit from local governments and in defining the route to be taken by marchers as well as the venue of the protest.

But he said the administration should also examine its CPR policy in the light of mounting mass actions calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"If it will hurt, it's not right," he said, adding that the mark of good governance was the ability to accept criticism.

Since early this month, antiriot police have been employing the water cannon approach

ROSALES/ A4

To protect bodyguard, Jamby offers marriage

By Luige A. del Puerto

IF THERE ARE ANY LINGERing doubts about how daring Sen. Jamby Madrigal is, what happened in Camp Crame yesterday should erase them.

Madrigal asked Chief Supt. Edgardo Doromal to "marry" her.

The setting wasn't exactly perfect for a wedding. The

TO PROTECT/ A8

REM ZAMORA

WHAT'S THE BEEF? Threatened, says Sen. Jamby Madrigal who presents to the media proof of her violent engagement with antiriot cops on Friday. At right is her security, PO3 Rey Nanale, whose pistol fell during the rally dispersed by water cannon.

Bunye eyed as media czar

Swiss firm allows others to produce its antiflu drug

BASEL, SWITZERLAND—THE Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche appeared to bend to heavy demand for its antiflu drug Tamiflu on Tuesday, saying it was now ready to share production as a highly pathogenic form of avian influenza reached Europe.

In an apparent turnaround, Roche announced that it was prepared to allow other companies or governments to produce Tamiflu, which is considered a first line of defense against a potential flu pandemic.

It also announced that it would go ahead with a new facility to produce the drug in the United States, following approval from the US Federal Drug Administration.

"We are prepared to discuss all the available options, including granting sub-licenses, with any government or private company,

SWISS/ A6

EDWIN BACASMAS

CAMIGUIN'S SWEETEST HARVEST
With a smile as sweet as the fruits her province is famous for, a dancer from the Camiguin Polytechnic State College offers a basket of lanzones to President Arroyo, who's the special guest during the opening of the 26th Camiguin Lanzones Festival on Wednesday at the Benigno S. Aquino Park in Barangay Poblacion, Mambajao, Camiguin.

GMA going against advice of Bro. Mike

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Juliet Labog-Javellana

TO THINK THAT EL Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde had advised President Macapagal-Arroyo that she needed a "better" spokesperson than the one she had.

Despite his less than perfect handling of the "Hello, Garci" tape scandal, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye will apparently be rewarded by the President with an appointment as the undisputed boss of Malacañang's entire communications and media machinery.

According to a Palace insider, Bunye is scheduled to be named head of a new department, the Presidential Communications Group (PCG), which is being developed to replace the Office of the Communication Director (OCD) that was quietly abolished a few weeks ago.

The source said Bunye himself and Rigoberto Tiglao, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, were drafting the executive order creating the PCG.

The INQUIRER yesterday asked Bunye to confirm the supposed

BUNYE/ A8

SMILE, YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA

Palace adopts 'Big Brother' strategy at Mendiola

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACANANG IS ADOPTING A "Big Brother" strategy in fighting back protesters by putting up video surveillance cameras covering almost all angles on Mendiola Bridge.

This was revealed yesterday by Malacañang officials who were bent on throwing the book at the police bodyguard of Sen. Jamby Madrigal. The man was caught on film carrying a gun during the dispersal by water cannon of Friday's prayer rally.

National Capital Region Police Office Chief Vidal Querol said that aside from shields, helmets, rattan sticks and water cannons, the antiriot police would be equipped with video cameras to deter trouble makers during demonstrations.

"I have directed that there should be more video footage in rallies," Querol said.

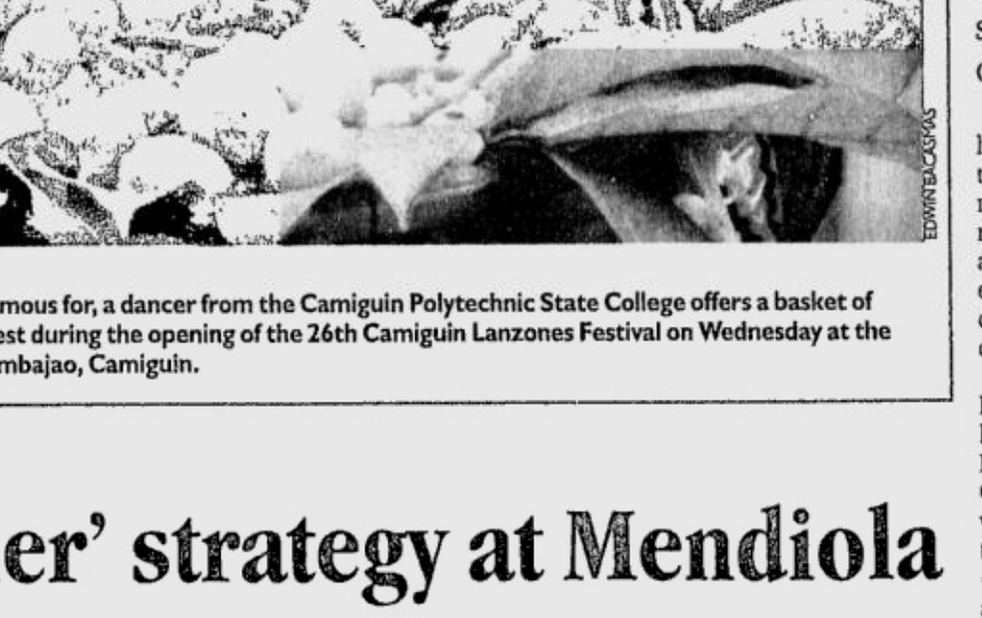
The strategy is a takeoff from the Big Brother's totalitarian society which George Orwell outlined in his popular book, "1984." Here, the state censors everyone's behavior and thoughts.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said video cameras would now be part of the police arsenal after the antiriot force got a file footage of the armed protester on Friday.

PALACE/ A8

ERIK ARAZAS

HEMMED in by two columns of policewomen, the "Hyatt 10" and other like-minded citizens march in single file toward San Beda chapel for a prayer rally via Mendiola.



ERIK ARAZAS

THE LONG MARCH (Lakbayan) of the Bagong Alyansa Makabayan from Laguna to their destination in Baclaran Church in Parañaque takes five at the Alabang-Zapote Road.

Hyatt 10 don't only get to Mendiola, cops escort them

By Leila B. Salaverria, Tina G. Santos and Jocelyn Uy

WHERE THREE BISHOPS AND A former Vice President failed, around 50 protesters carrying white roses and led by former Cabinet secretaries of President Macapagal-Arroyo succeeded.

The protesters marched in a single file across Chino Roces

HYATT 10/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/20/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

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SC junks bid to stop NorthRail

Says lower court is proper forum for squatters' petition

By Armand N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DISMISSED THE PETITION by a group of squatters seeking to halt the P6.6-billion NorthRail railway project in Bulacan, on the ground that the high court was the wrong forum to tackle the issue.

"This court is not a trier of facts," said the high court in a decision dated Oct. 18 and signed by Clerk of Court Ma. Luisa D. Villarama.

The high court said the petitioners, the League of Urban Poor for Action (Lupa) and the UP Law Center, should seek relief from the lower courts or the Court of Appeals as the resolution of the issues that they raised "[required] the establishment of key facts."

The petitioners asked the tribunal to void the NorthRail project, claiming it did not go through the required public bidding and was overpriced.

The UP Law Center claimed that the laws on procurement should have applied in the NorthRail project as it was covered by a mere agreement between two corporations, the state-owned North Luzon Railways Corp. and the China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. Groups (CNMEG), rather than between two states.

Credentials questioned

The NorthRail project's first phase involves the rehabilitation of the 32-km railway that runs from Caloocan City to Malolos, Bulacan, using a loan from China's Export-Import Bank (Eximbank).

The contract for the railway was awarded to the China-based China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (CNMEC), whose credentials the petitioners have questioned.

Among the facts that the court said needed to be established in a trial court were: whether a competitive bidding was held; whether public funds were appropriated for the project; whether CNMEC was a bona fide contractor in China; and whether the proper procedure for the relocation of squatters in the project areas were followed.

The high court said it was dismissing the petition "without prejudice to it's re-filing in the appropriate trial court."

Lawyer Harry H. Roque, who led the group of UP lawyers in filing the petition, deplored the decision and said the petitioners would file a motion for reconsideration.

"This is an issue of law, not an issue of fact," he said.

He said that unlike the high court, the lower courts cannot issue a temporary restraining order against infrastructure projects of the government.

He said the decision would remove the legal impediments to the squatters' relocation and the demolition of their dwellings.

"By the time the issue is brought back to the Supreme Court, the houses of the informal settlers would have all been demolished," Roque said in a telephone interview.

He asked the high court to order a temporary halt to the project as the squatters have already been issued "notices to vacate."

Squatter relocation

Vice President Noli de Castro, who is in charge of the squatter relocation program for the NorthRail project, welcomed the decision but stressed that the legal issues raised by the petitioners in the case had nothing to do with the relocation of squatters.

"The petitioner can still raise the legal question before a lower court. However, the government will proceed with the relocation of the affected families regardless of the outcome of the case," he said.

He said that mayors of the Bulacan towns affected by the project have denied that the displaced residents were protesting their relocation.

Guiguinto Mayor Ambrosio Cruz said all the mayors in the affected section in Bulacan had signed a manifesto of support for the relocation as well as the NorthRail project.

The mayors said the relocation program would solve the decades-long problem of squatting in the affected areas.

Named respondents in the case were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Budget Secretary Romulo Neri, Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos, the North Luzon Railways Corp. and CNMEC.

Apart from the group of UP lawyers, the other petitioners were the Urban Poor for Action, Bulacan Urban Poor Federation, Kilusan ng Maralita sa Meycauayan, and the Saug Informal Settlers Association.

AMENDING THE CHARTER

Concom chair sees plebiscite next year

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ABUEVA

THE CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION ON Charter revision sees the holding of a plebiscite for the shift to a parliamentary-federal system of government and other amendments of the 1987 Constitution as early as next year.

But despite the early timetable, Concom Chair Jose Abueva said it was too early to answer the question bugging both opposition and administration allies whether President Macapagal-Arroyo would agree to have her six-year term cut short to pave the way for the shift to a new system of government by 2007.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and religious leaders, including El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde who are seeking a solution to the political crisis arising from charges Ms Arroyo cheated in the 2004 election, have talked about the need for her to step down by 2007. The President has not made any public pronouncement about that.

"I don't want to speculate on that, it's very premature (to talk about)," Abueva said in a phone interview when asked if the Charter change initiative would result in Ms Arroyo stepping down before her term is over.

Cutting GMA term

Abueva said the President has not made any comment about that when she convened the 38-member Concom and gave its mandate. Neither did she make any hint on that when she met the Concom members for the first time in Malacañang the other night.

"No, not at all," Abueva said.

Abueva said the Concom would eventually deal with the President's fate when it tackles the question of how to shift from the presidential-unitary form of government to the new system.

"Eventually we have to (touch that) because we have to have a transitory provision on how to shift to the parliamentary-federal system. But we are in the early stages and that will probably be done on the last weeks," Abueva said.

But Abueva sees a more definite time frame on the pace of the Charter change.

"Congress should call for a plebiscite middle of next year or early 2007," he said.

That is assuming Congress has undertaken Charter change by that time.

Abueva has earlier said in a Concom session that the possibility of a constitutional convention being elected to amend the Charter "seems slim" and that it was "most likely" it will be Congress, sitting as a Constituent Assembly, would do the work. The amendments needed to be subjected to final approval by the people in a plebiscite.

For Congress consideration

Abueva said the 38-member Concom was determined to come up with its proposed amendments by Dec. 15, the deadline set by President Arroyo. The President created the commission to study Charter change, and said she would submit its report to Congress for consideration during the Charter change deliberations.

So far, Concom committees have recommended the shift to a parliamentary and federal system of government, as well as specific economic amendments including the lifting of restrictions on foreign ownership of media and business corporations.

Palace says it's powerless on Bro. Mike's referendum

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG CANNOT DO ANYTHING about El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde's proposal for government to hold a referendum in 2007 to determine whether President Macapagal-Arroyo should stay on until the end of her term in 2010 or cut it short.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday that it was Congress and not Malacañang that would decide whether exercises such as a referendum should take place.

Velarde made the referendum proposal in an effort to help address the political crisis that continues to hound the Arroyo administration.

He said that this proposal could be a "workable compromise" with the opposition to resolve the lingering political instability.

In his weekly news briefing in Malacañang, Ermita stressed Congress should be the one to take up the proposal.

"The executive branch cannot just take a unilateral action of ordering such a referendum," the executive secretary said.

"Anything that pertains to the Constitution is something for the legislature to attend to," he added.

Corruption perception traced to allegation of election fraud

By Blanche S. Rivera

A SURVEY BY THE INDEPENDENT THINK tank IBON Foundation has reaffirmed an international group's finding that the Philippines ranks high among countries mired in "severe corruption," but it attributed Filipinos' growing perception of corruption to unresolved allegations of cheating in last year's presidential election.

IBON's third-quarter survey on corruption, which it released yesterday, showed that 82.06 percent of Filipinos believe that there is "severe corruption" in the country under the Arroyo government, a sharp increase from 69.1 percent the previous quarter.

Of those surveyed, 7.10 percent said corruption was "not that bad" and only 5.9 percent thought corruption in the Philippines was only "minimal," half of the 11.2 percent who shared the same conviction in the previous quarter.

"This is due to persistent questions of whether President Arroyo rigged the 2004 elections and used public funds to do so," IBON executive director Rosario Bella Guzman said in a statement.

She said the exile of First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo, who has been linked to "jueteng" operations and allegedly anomalous government deals, has "not helped to remove the stain of corruption from the Arroyo administration."

"No amount of physical absence can make people forget corruption allegations against the Arroyo administration," Guzman said. "The people have not put these behind them because these allegations have yet to be resolved."

IBON said the survey was conducted from Sept. 26 to Oct. 7 and covered 1,366 respondents. It gave the survey an error margin of three percent, plus or minus.

Transparency International has ranked the Philippines 117th of 159 nations in its corruption perception index. It gave the Philippines a score of 2.5, which meant "severe corruption" in a scoring system where the cleanest nations received 10.

Meanwhile, two administration legislators branded as propaganda another finding of IBON, published Wednesday, that 64.49 percent of Filipinos want Ms Arroyo removed from office through people power. The same survey showed the President's satisfaction rating had slipped to negative 74.7 percent in the third quarter of 2005 from 67.9 percent in the second quarter.

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SC revives case vs DOTC, MIAA execs

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERday ordered the Office of the Ombudsman to immediately reinvestigate the involvement of two former transportation secretaries, two airport chiefs and others in the allegedly anomalous Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3 contract.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Guttierrez, the high court directed the Ombudsman to conduct a preliminary investigation anew of the complaint filed Manila International Airport Authority-Naia Association of Service Operators against the respondents with dispatch.

Named respondents in the graft and plunder case were former secretaries of Transportation and Communications Pantaleon Alvarez and Vicente Rivera Jr.; and former Manila International Airport Authority general managers Antonio Gana and Edgardo Manda.

The high court raised concerns about the claim of Miaa-Naia Association of Service Operators that the case was earlier dismissed by then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto because of alleged "incomplete" and "hastily conducted" preliminary investigation.

Alvarez was charged along with the officers and employees of his firm Wintrack Builders which bagged alleged "juicy" contracts in connection with the Naia Terminal 3 project; while Rivera was charged for executing the allegedly questionable Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (ARCA).

The ARCA stemmed from a July 12, 1997 agreement between the government and the Philippine International Air Terminals, Co. Inc. (Piatco) to build the controversial Naia 3 under a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme.

RIVERA

ALVAREZ

The petitioners elevated the case to the high court after Desierto dismissed the complaint on March 12, 2002, saying there was no evidence to support the charges against the respondents.

But before the court could rule on the case, it issued a decision in 2003 voiding the BOT contract between the government and Piatco.

The high court said that in "dismissing the complaint of petitioners, the Ombudsman in effect ruled that the (ARCA) and its supplements are valid."

The high court added that the assailed resolution of the Ombudsman was obviously tainted with grave abuse of discretion.

Thus, the court said it was necessary for the Ombudsman to reinvestigate the criminal acts allegedly committed by the respondents pursuant to the voided Piatco agreements to determine whether probable cause exists against them.

Other respondents include Diosdado Acob, Reynaldo Roa, Lewelyn Villamor, Jose Gabriel Benedicto, Jose Go, and Elpidio Mendoza, all Miaa officials who allegedly helped Wintrack bag the juicy deals.

Also charged were Piatco officers and directors Bernd Struck, Vic Cheng Yong, Jefferson Cheng, Jason Cheng, Alfred Johannes, Arthur Vogel, Stephan Bauchspiess, S. Samim Aydin, Hachiman Yokoi, Gil Camacho, Katherin Agnes Arnaldo, Mario Tongson, Marife Opulencia, Mary Antonette Manalo and Ernesto Hernandez.

Likewise charged were Raoul Hiloe, Manfred Reimer, Henry Go, Lilia Cheng, Jean Cheng, Eberhard Mueller, and Karl May—directors and officers of Philippine Airport and Ground Services—also in connection with the alleged overbillings of Wintrack.

Many of the respondents are also facing other criminal complaints before the Sandiganbayan.

RP to become hub for Russian oil

THE PHILIPPINES IS EXPECTED to sign a deal this year to make itself the Asian distribution hub for oil from Russia, the world's No. 2 producer, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday.

Romulo, who travelled to Moscow last week to discuss energy cooperation with Russian Foreign Minister Servey Lavrov, said Russian oil experts would be visiting Manila in early December to identify locations for distribution and storage.

"We expect to have that (a memorandum of understanding) signed within this year when the professional oil experts from Russia visit the Philippines in December," Romulo told a news conference.

A deal could give Manila, eager to enhance its energy security, a ready stockpile of oil to tap in an emergency while offering Russian producers the opportunity to develop markets in fast-growing Asian consumers like China and India.

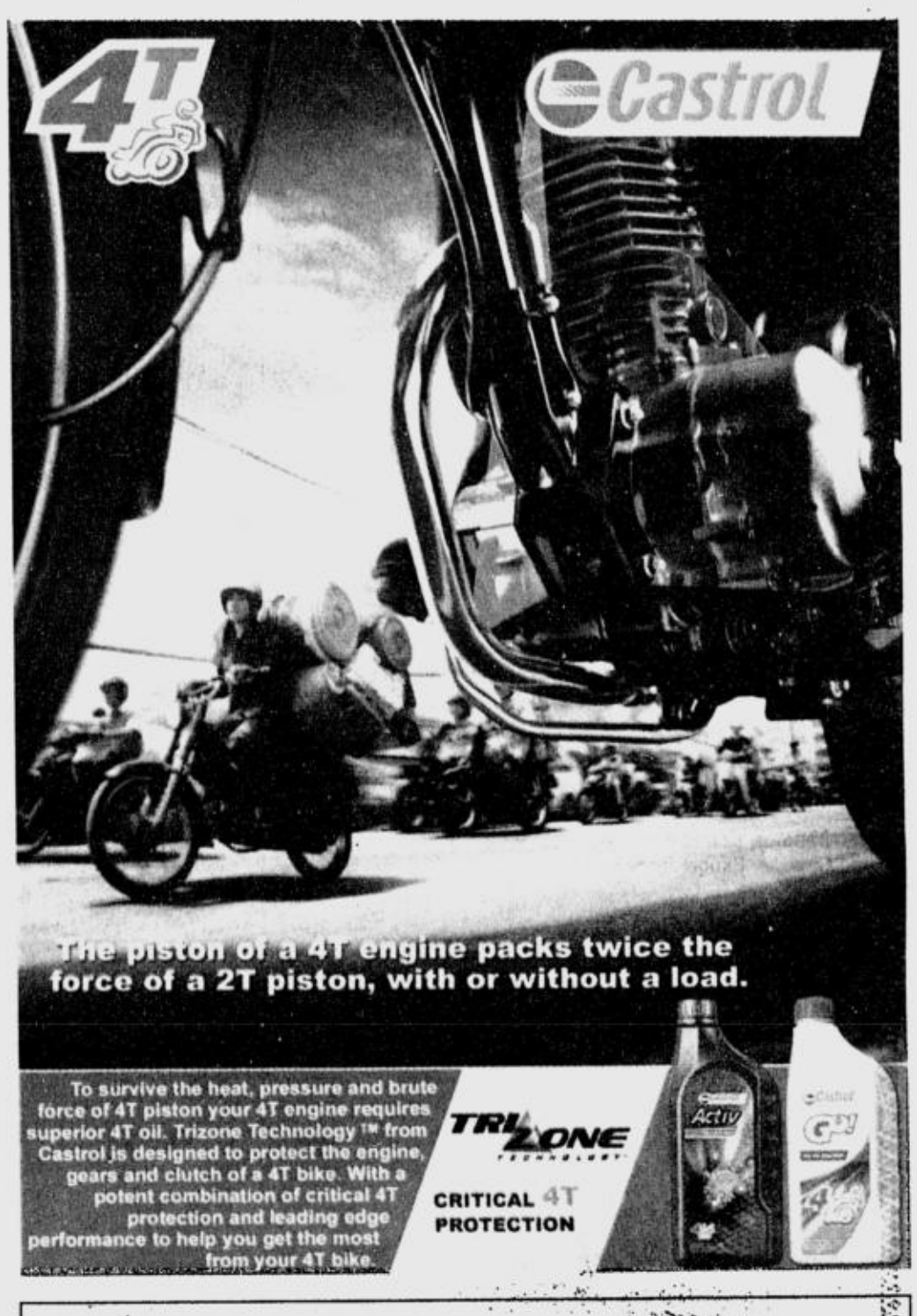
Romulo said locations in Subic, a port north of Manila, and in Surigao del Norte were under consideration for storage projects.

The Philippines is the nearest Southeast Asian country to the Russian Far East—including Sakhalin and Yakutsk in Siberia—where a substantial portion of Russian oil, natural gas and coal originate, Romulo has said.

Crude output in Russia, the second-biggest producer after Saudi Arabia, has stalled this year but is expected to grow soon thanks to several new developments in the east, including Exxon Mobil Corp.'s big Sakhalin oil and gas project.

Oil output hit a post-Soviet high of 9.53 million barrels per day in September, Energy Ministry data has shown.

The Philippines draws most of its 330,000 bpd of crude oil from the Middle East and wants to diversify its sources of energy in case of disruption of supplies. *Reuters*



Sofa for RP's own protection — Romulo

FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY Alberto Romulo yesterday said the proposed bilateral status-of-forces agreements that would allow troops from Australia and other Southeast Asian countries to enter the country for joint antiterrorism exercises was something that the Philippines needed.

"It is necessary and this is for our own protection. We don't want to leave ourselves open (to the terrorist threat)," Romulo said.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the other day a draft accord with Australia was already under study and talks on similar accords with Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore were under way.

Romulo said terrorism was already a regional threat, and that even international organizations created to promote trade like the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (Apec) saw the need for an anti-terrorism task force to protect its members.

"In counter-terrorism, there are things we have to share as members of the United Nations," he said.

But opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday cautioned the government against rushing into signing an anti-terror agreement with Australia.

Such an agreement should be thoroughly examined in the context of the constitutional provision barring the establishment of foreign bases and foreign troops in the country, Biazon said.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said he would scrutinize any such agreement transmitted to the Senate for ratification. *Volt Contreras and TJ Burgonio*

New RP bishop named

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE VATICAN HAS APPOINTED a new prelate to assist outspoken Archbishop Oscar Cruz who's at the forefront of a crusade against illegal gambling.

Rev. Fr. Renato Mayugba, the third Filipino bishop appointed by Pope Benedict XVI, will serve as Cruz's auxiliary prelate in the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan in Pangasinan.

Mayugba's appointment was announced on Tuesday by Fr. James Reuter, S.J. of the National Office of Mass Media who also explained that it was not connected with Cruz' advocacies that have made him "prominent in our media these days."

He said neither should it be viewed as Vatican's subtle way of telling Cruz, a vocal critic of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to go.

Reuter was requested by Vatican Charge d'Affaires Msgr. Jain Mendez to announce Mayugba's appointment.

"Not yet 71, he has over four years to go before he submits the customary letter of resignation on his 75th birthday," he said of the 70-year-old Cruz. "And even then, Rome does not have to accept the resignation."

Asked about the appointment, Cruz on Tuesday said he had long been requesting for an auxiliary bishop. Such a prelate is named primarily to help bishops dispense their duties, both administrative and apostolic, in their respective dioceses.

Lawyer files graft raps vs Gonzalez over Nani

LAWYER FRANCISCO CHAVEZ yesterday filed charges of "graft and grave misconduct" before the Ombudsman's office against Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez whose "dereliction of duty" allegedly delayed the prosecution of former Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez.

Chavez, in his complaint, said that Gonzalez violated the law when he allegedly refused to act on a request from the Ombudsman's office to secure assistance from the Hong Kong authorities in the criminal investigation of Perez.

According to records submitted by Chavez, the Ombudsman's office was investigating Perez and several other individuals for alleged money-laundering activities.

The Ombudsman's office was acting on allegations by former Manila congressman Mark Jimenez that he gave Perez $2 million in bribe money in 2001 in exchange for his not being included in the criminal charges against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The money found its way to the Coutts Bank in Hong Kong and from there, the trail led to several bank accounts in Switzerland, the records showed.

In November 2004, the Ombudsman's office reportedly asked the justice secretary to seek the help of his Hong Kong counterpart to obtain the pertinent bank records from the Coutts Bank in Hong Kong.

Gonzalez was the sole "central authority" designated for the task under the Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Philippines and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, according to Chavez.

Chavez alleged that Gonzalez deliberately sat on the request and had even asked his subordinate, chief state counsel Ricardo Paras III, to put the request on hold.

"It bugs me that he is doing things like preparing drafts for the takeover of businesses but cannot prosecute Perez. That is selective justice," he said.

Chavez explained that for the prosecution of Perez to prosper, the pertinent banking transactions in Hong Kong have to be investigated and this would be possible only if Gonzalez acted on the request of the Ombudsman's office.

"The lackadaisical conduct of respondent could only profit former Justice Secretary Perez and his co-conspirators to the detriment of the people's interest in cleansing the government of crooks and criminals," he said.

Marlyn Galvez, Ombudsman's Public Assistance Bureau chief, said it would investigate Chavez's complaint.

The laws that Gonzalez was alleged to have violated were RA 3019, or the anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, RA 6713, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, and Section 5 of Article 208 and 203 of the Revised Penal Code.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag, meanwhile, yesterday reproached Gonzalez for the latter's allegedly shabby treatment of reporters covering the justice beat.

Saguisag alleged that Gonzalez had announced in a loud voice at Estrada's plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan antigraft court that Manila Times reporter Jomar Canlas was banned from his office.

Canlas wrote an article recently about Charlie "Atong" Ang, Estrada's gambling buddy, and the justice department's alleged attempt to turn Ang into a state witness against Estrada. Gonzalez was apparently irked by the article. *Nelson F. Flores*

Palace sees no fight with Mark Jimenez

By Christine O. Avendaño

WHO'S AFRAID OF MARK Jimenez?

Certainly not Malacañang, says Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who has some friendly homecoming advice for the businessman-politician and critic of the Arroyo administration.

"Just relax. When he returns, (he should) just relax," Ermita said of Jimenez, who returns home next month after an absence of nearly three years, including 27 months doing time in a US federal prison.

The US government is set to deport Jimenez – aka Mario Crespo – on Nov. 21 after he finishes serving his sentence in a facility in Pennsylvania. A Miami court had convicted him on charges of tax evasion and election conspiracy in November 2003. These were crimes he had been accused of committing while living in the United States years ago.

While Jimenez, an economic adviser to former President Joseph Estrada who was later elected to the House of Representatives, initially fought off US requests for his extradition, he eventually agreed to be flown out of Manila in December 2002 to face trial in the United States.

Prior to his departure from Manila, Jimenez rocked the Arroyo administration with charges of corruption, and speculation is rife that on his return to the country he will revive the $2 million extortion case he had filed against former Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez.

Ermita said if he were Jimenez, he would "rethink" his critical stance against the administration. He said he was certain Jimenez would be advised by friends to do so.

"Ayaw naman siguro na umuwi siya na palaban siya kaagad at magiging controversial bigla siya (He probably would not want to come home in a fighting mood lest he suddenly become controversial)," Ermita said.

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Rosales backs dispersal of rally led by 3 bishops

From page A1

on protest rallies in Manila, Rosales' pastoral jurisdiction.

But the archbishop had been making himself scarce since the announcement and implementation of the controversial policy.

'Treason'

Rosales said the raging political crisis generally manifested in the protest rallies was a result of the lack of vision by the government and its people.

"Leadership without vision is treason—I'm betraying my God and the people I serve," he said, adding:

"Filipinos do not know where they are going. They just move from one crisis to another, from one rally to another."

Rosales and the rest of the Manila clergy are in the process of mapping out the vision of the archdiocese.

The final vision statement will be presented during the two-day Manila Archdiocesan General Pastoral Assembly at La Salle-Green Hills starting tomorrow.

"A church that has a vision knows where it is going," he said. "I just don't know about governments. [They] may not be sure."

'Personal decision'

In defending the violent dispersal of the Oct. 14 procession, Rosales put himself directly opposite Bishops Antonio Tobias, Deogracias Iñiguez and Julio Labayen, who led it.

He said joining the procession was the bishops' "personal decision" based on their "own motivation and conviction."

In the first place, he said, it was "not right" for the procession participants to "sneak" toward Recto Avenue when the rally permit supposedly allowed them only up to the San Sebastian Church.

"When they were drenched, I think they were already beyond the parameters agreed upon," Rosales said.

That night, the procession participants reasoned that a separate ground commander had allowed them to march to Recto, where a fire truck and a phalanx of antiriot police were waiting to disperse them.

'Parental discipline'

Rosales likened the Arroyo administration's tough measures against critics to a parent disciplining a child.

He said the child would naturally get a slap or two on the hand after violating the parent's rules.

But the water bombardment was no slap on the wrist for the procession participants, who have threatened to take their case to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Tobias had also said the CPR policy was just "jelling the bishops together."

"A little more of that and this thing will explode. This is the battle of the Holy Spirit and if you fight it, you can never win even if you are Malacañang," he had said.

Corrections

IN THE METRO section of the Oct. 18 issue, an item in Metro-Briefs—"Mall break-in"—on Page A17 misstated the operator of a medical diagnostic center that was burglarized at Robinson's Galleria in Quezon City. The medical diagnostic center is run by Biomedix Inc.—not Biomedics Inc.

* * *

IN THE INQUIRER Northern Luzon section of the Oct. 19 issue, a story—"Who's afraid of General Palparan?"—on Page A17 misstated the name of one of the world's leading communist ideologues. The correct name of the communist ideologue is Friedrich Engels—not Engel.

* * *

IN THE ACROSS the Nation section of the Oct. 19 issue, a news item—"Ordeal not over for kidnap victims"—on Page A19 erroneously stated that Alberto Alcuar and Quedan Lim were still being held hostage by the Pentagon gang. The two kidnapping victims had been killed by the notorious gang.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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How family on P16,700 income can cope with VAT

From page A1

But if it's the children, then that's another matter," Rex said. "Maybe it's time for us to look for jobs abroad."

Rex earns P10,600 and Marie P9,900 a month as teachers at the Quezon City Science High School. But their combined take-home pay of P16,700 is not enough to cover the household's monthly expenses of P21,540.

"Last month our youngest got sick and we had to bring her to the hospital. Our budget is so tight that when things like this happen, (we) have no choice but to borrow money," Rex said in an interview.

The couple have two daughters—Moira, 5 and Maya, 2.

Budget shortfall

With their budget short by almost P5,000, the San Diegos have resorted to cutting back on some expenses and have even defaulted on some monthly payments.

Their rent of P2,000 for a duplex unit owned by Rex's father is almost always a candidate for an IOU. They may also no longer be able to set aside P1,500 for health care.

"There's always the family and the teachers' cooperative to turn to," Rex added, referring to the source of borrowings.

The budget shortfall comes even as Rex, who handles the school paper staff, has no vices.

He doesn't smoke, drink and won't even bet P10 on a six-number lotto combination.

Marie, who teaches English, also leads a Spartan lifestyle. She doesn't shop for the latest fashion and her husband says she bought her last pair of shoes two years ago.

Relatives are asking Marie, who graduated cum laude from the Philippine Normal University in 1991 and had taught at private schools, to teach in the United States so she can earn more.

"Our children are still quite young for me to leave and work abroad," Marie said.

Using the conservative projections of the Department of Finance, the research group Ibon Foundation Inc. said the San Diego household's monthly budget of P21,540 should increase by at least P961.50 to P22,501.50 to cover the higher prices.

Groceries

"Definitely, they will have to cut back on their marketing and groceries," said Ibon executive director Rosario Bella Guzman.

The San Diegos allocate P4,000 a month for their market needs and P3,500 for groceries.

BREAD EARNER is no winner. Rex San Diego, Quezon City Science High school adviser for its news organ, has no vices, does not even bet on the lotto, and shops for clothes only once a year. Which helped the family make both ends meet—before the VAT. REM ZAMORA

"(We set aside a bigger amount for the market) because it's much better buying fresh food (than processed stuff)," Rex said.

Guzman said the San Diego family may have to cut their spending on food, too.

"There are many families like that. They'd scrimp on everything else except food. (But with the more difficult times ahead), they may have to do so," Guzman said in an interview.

With the DOF's projected 6-percent increase in food prices, Ibon said the San Diegos' food costs would go up to P4,240 for wet market supplies and to P3,710 for groceries.

"Usually, you cut back on that part of the budget that is allocated the most money," Guzman said.

Electricity

The couple spend P3,600 a month for public transportation and the same amount for lunch at the school canteen.

With the DOF's projected increase of 6 percent on public transportation and prepared meals, the couple's budget for fares and lunch in the cafeteria would rise to a total of P7,632.

Despite having the barest electrical appliances (a television, a refrigerator, two electric fans, a rice cooker and a flat iron), the P1,000 the San Diegos pay monthly for electricity will rise to P1,079 if they consume the same kilowatt hours, said Ibon.

"Their electric consumption would be next to be reduced," Guzman said. "Small households no longer iron clothes, especially children's clothes. Others just use coolers instead of refrigerators. These are common coping mechanisms," she said.

While the couple have not received annual salary adjustments in the past few years, they can still be considered middle class, Guzman said.

Prepaid landline

"Spending for health insurance is definitely a middle income expense," she said. "(With rising prices), that will also eventually have to go," he added.

Guzman said that the San Diegos' telephone service might soon give way to a pre-paid landline.

"Also, if they have borrowings as a result of their already existing deficit, the family's monthly payments may also increase. They might also increase their borrowings as a result of the higher prices," she said.

Guzman said both Rex and Marie were candidates for "social mobility" who could work abroad or transfer to better paying jobs in private schools.

She said citizens of other countries could afford to pay consumption taxes since 40 percent to 50 percent of these go back in the form of social services.

"The P1,500 a month (the San Diegos) pay for the pre-school tuition would no longer be necessary because the government would take care of that," Guzman said in comparing the social services in developed countries with those in the Philippines.

Guzman said Rex and Marie could consider working in private schools because these usually offer discounts for their children's tuition.

Still, the couple are opting to stay in the public school. "We don't want people to say that it's all depressing (to work in a public school). I mean we have a choice and we made it," Marie said.

"This is where we think we are most needed," she said.

Senators to GMA: Collect, spend VAT revenues wisely

From page A1

to lay the ground for the implementation of an "efficient and strict collection of taxes" as the government prepares to impose the VAT next month.

"If Juan de la Cruz is asked to carry an additional burden brought about by the new tax measure, the government should ensure that his living condition will be better tomorrow," he said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, who had vigorously opposed the VAT, voiced hopes that the government would prudently spend the estimated P120 billion to P130 billion revenue to be generated from the tax next year.

"Let's hope it would be spent wisely. The burden on the people will be assuaged if they see the benefits therefrom," he said.

Socially sensitive programs

Sen. Ralph Recto, principal author of the Senate version of the VAT bill, said the government would do well to spend the revenue collections on "socially sensitive programs" that provide the poor access to social services.

"Clearly, VAT burdens those who consume more and the budget is the process of redistributing wealth," he said.

Roxas, who along with 10 senators filed a bill that sought to exempt power from VAT, said that the tax law would dampen the consumers' purchasing power and force them to tighten their belts.

"The consumers would naturally tighten their belts and would spend less under the VAT ruling, making the local market glum, as result. The ratio between gain and loss is altogether too disproportionate," he said.

"It's like siphoning fuel out of a car while it's already on the red," he added.

Impact on prices 'minimal'

Malacañang officials assured the public that the tax would have a minimal impact on prices.

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila said the VAT would lead to a measly 1 percent increase in prices of basic commodities.

Favila said the government's strategy was to focus on ensuring that no trader would take advantage of the VAT law.

He said there was also no reason to increase fares because the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board had already included the tax increase in its latest fare adjustment.

In the House of representatives, reactions to the Supreme Court ruling upholding VAT ranged from calls for its immediate suspension to its repeal and even to implementation of emergency relief package from the government.

Lakas Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr. called on Malacañang to suspend VAT's implementation indefinitely.

Despite the high court ruling, Jaworski believed that the executive department, through Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, could put the tax measure on hold, warning it would fuel the people's anger against the "seeming apathy of this administration to the plight of the poor."

Akbayan party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel said her group would ask Congress to repeal the law because VAT "will be tantamount to suicide by hunger and deeper poverty for many Filipinos."

To provide immediate relief to taxpayers, Lakas Rep. Robert Ace Barbers of Surigao del Norte filed House Bill No. 4859 to cushion the effects of the VAT.

The bill proposes to amend Section 35 (a) of the National Internal Revenue Code to double the allowance of personal exemption for individual taxpayers and to increase additional exemptions for dependents.

Living wage

The moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines said it would seek a new round of wage increase if the tax eroded the purchasing power of workers.

TUCP spokesperson Alex Aguilar, however, said the precise impact of the VAT on consumer prices would still have to be considered.

While the Department of Finance foresees a "minimal effect" on prices, other groups think otherwise, Aguilar said.

Income of workers in the form of basic pay or cost-of-living allowance were last raised in the middle of the year. The minimum wage in Metro Manila remains the highest at P325 a day while that in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is the lowest at P180.

The minimum wages are way below the family living wage. The Nation Wages and Productivity Commission placed the family living wage for a family of six in Metro Manila at P681 a day.

Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo said the VAT law was an instrument of death against ordinary working Filipinos.

Other groups warned that the government was inviting the people's wrath.

At a press conference in Quezon City, Laban ng Masa, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Lumaban Ka and Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya said Ms Arroyo should expect more and bigger protests in the coming days to denounce the Supreme Court, which denied with finality the motions for reconsideration and lifted the freeze order on the VAT law.

"We will go out in the streets to show our indignation and disgust over these crises besetting our people," said Laban ng Masa spokesperson Ma. Teresa Diokno Pascual in a statement.

Political survival

The VAT's implementation was actually meant to ensure Ms Arroyo's political survival, Pascual said.

She said Ms Arroyo chose the approval of international creditors over the plight of the poor. "(For her) the windows of credit institutions ought to stay open" because she stands to lose if creditors pulled out support for her government.

Day of protest

FDC president Ana Maria Nemenzo announced another National Day of Protest on Nov. 10 against the VAT law, among other issues.

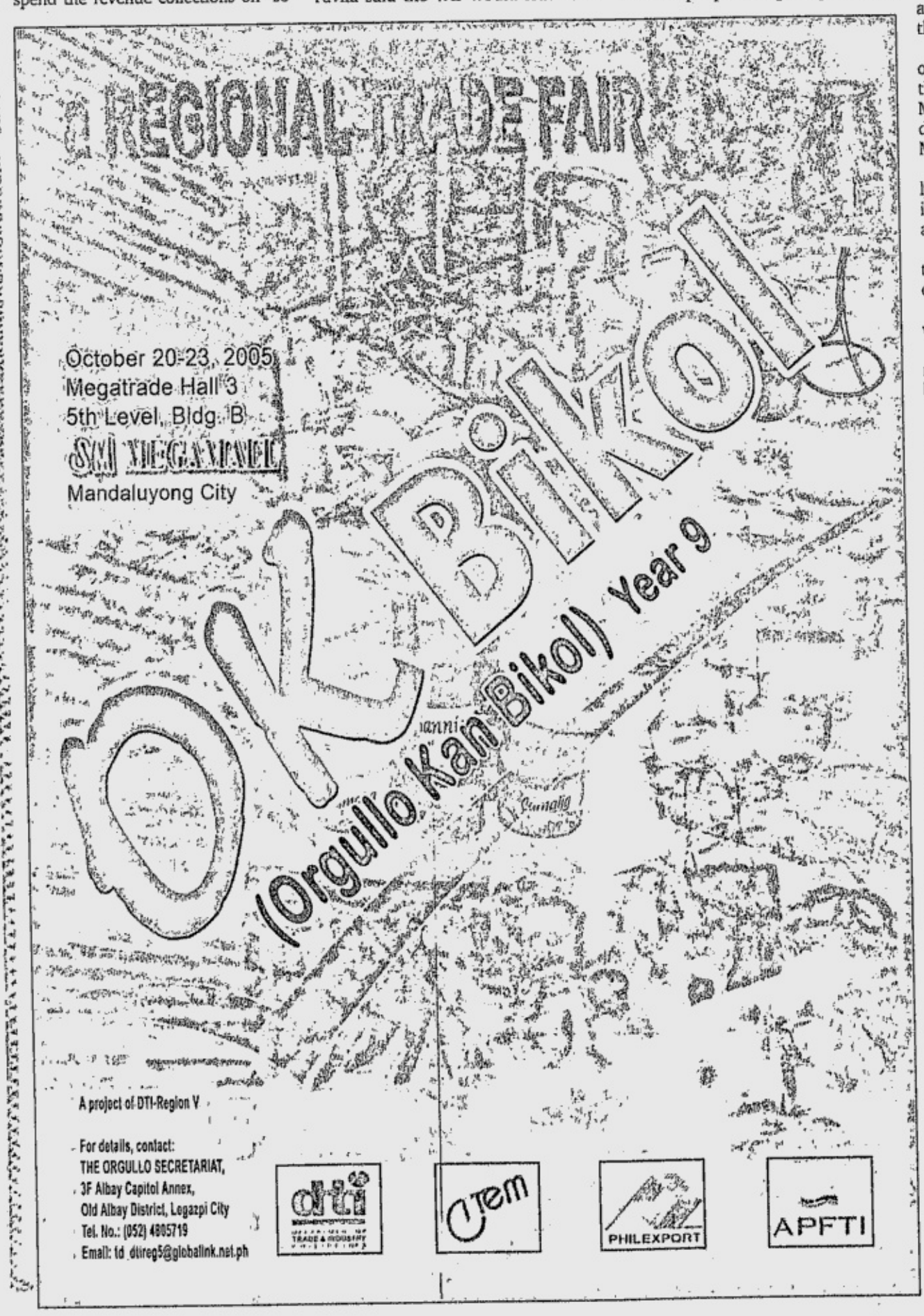
"Oil prices will rise by almost P3 per liter, electricity prices will increase by P0.5 by per kilowatt, services of doctors and other professionals will be go up by 10 percent. Transport fares will also rise," she said, reading from the groups' joint statement.

"Ms Arroyo's policies have continued to inflict sufferings upon the people. She only cares about maintaining her hold on power," Nemenzo said.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said the Arroyo administration had neglected the poor in coming up with the tax.

"If it is true that the government needs money, the poor need it more badly," Rosales said at a press conference.

He noted that the sharp increase in the prices of basic goods and services as a result of the VAT law would victimize mainly the poor. "It's always the poor who are affected," he said. *Reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jerome Aning, DJ Yap and Michael Lim Ubac*



Swiss firm allows others ...

From page A1

who approach us to manufacture Tamiflu, or collaborate with us in its manufacturing," said William Burns, head of Roche's drugs division.

Just days after the Swiss-based group had signaled its reluctance to open up an exclusive license, Roche said discussions could include secondary licensing arrangements in the event of a flu pandemic.

However, it insisted that any partner must be able to "realistically produce substantial amounts of the medicine for emergency pandemic use" and meet quality, safety and regulatory requirements.

Booming demand

The group has repeatedly warned that the production process is complex and costly.

But Roche has had trouble satisfying booming demand for the drug despite racking up output.

The spread of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza in Asia since 2003—which has led to 60 deaths in humans—has prompted mass stockpiling of the drug by governments amid fears that the virus could cause a human flu pandemic.

Pharmacies in Europe were also stripped of the drug following the emergence of the strain in migrating birds in Turkey and Romania this month—and in European Union member Greece on Monday—adding to the pressure on Roche.

The Swiss group has now received orders for national stockpiles from 40 countries.

It has also donated enough Tamiflu to treat three million people to the World Health Organization and is trying to cope with additional demand from anxious private customers.

Roche was aiming to raise output eight to tenfold over 2003 levels within 18 months on its own. The new US facility will be part of a network of 12 production centers.

A spokesperson for Roche told Agence France-Presse that the government of Taiwan had contacted the group to look at ways of increasing production of Tamiflu.

The Financial Times reported last week that the Indian pharmaceutical manufacturer Cipla planned to produce a generic version of Tamiflu.

"We will sell it in many countries where there are no patents," notably in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia," Cipla's joint managing director Amar Lulla told the newspaper.

The Swiss group said it was open to talks with Cipla, but had not been approached by the Indian drug-maker.

Until now, the Swiss company has refused to grant secondary licenses, saying that it preferred to retain control of production to ensure quality control.

Top priority

Burns on Tuesday said that the top priority now was to increase production capacity quickly.

Some stages of the production process are already subcontracted to partners. Roche has declined to give output data, in common with many other drugs makers.

Roche has exclusive commercial rights for the basic flu drug oseltamivir from US laboratory Gilead. The compound reduces the impact of flu symptoms in humans.

Analysts expect Roche to publish a strong set of overall nine-month sales figures on Thursday, with growth seen outpacing the overall market thanks to strong performance of Tamiflu and cancer treatments.

Gilead receives royalty payments for the drug which was expected earlier this year to net about US$793 million in sales for 2005. *AFP*

OPEN LETTER TO OUR BISHOPS

on the 14 October Mendiola Incident

We respect the authority of our bishops to impart guidance on spiritual matters to the members of the Church and their right to carry out their mission of working to transform society according to the life-giving teachings of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In line with the teaching of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council (Vatican II) and the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP 2), we take seriously the task of the lay people of God to contribute their prayer, insights, and considered opinions toward the improvement of the life-giving and socially transforming mission of the Church.

It is in this spirit that we offer respectfully the following thoughts to our bishops in connection with the incidents that took place last 14 October around the Mendiola area of Manila, that involved some Church personnel, including some bishops.

1. It is evident to us that the fact that a permit was readily given for the Church personnel and their group to have their rally at Plaza Miranda shows respect for their human rights.
2. After the rally at Plaza Miranda, the group was allowed by the police officers to proceed to San Sebastian Church, even when this was not included in the terms of the permit. This shows great respect and leniency on the part of the government.
3. Politicians and politically very active persons, including militants and leftists, were quite prominent in the activity, at times even situating themselves at the head of the "procession." This is uncalled for in a "religious procession" and bolsters the conviction that the action they took part in was not religious but political in the partisan sense.
4. The rallyists insisted on trying to hold a "religious procession" toward and "praying" in the San Beda Chapel, in a highly sensitive area, from a security viewpoint, in a thickly populated area very near to Malacañang, and in a no-rally zone. Considering that God is everywhere and can be prayed to anywhere, and that there are dozens of churches in Manila where praying involves no danger to anyone's security and constitutes no provocation to anyone, the political motivation of the group becomes very evident.
5. After agreeing to the requests from police officers that they desist from entering the Mendiola area, and pretending to march away, part of the group, including personalities prominent in the Church and in politics, tried to sneak into the Mendiola area through a side street. This behavior shows malice and bad faith.
6. When blocked by police officers from entering the Mendiola area through a side street, the marchers began to attack the police officers physically in an effort to force their way through. This was clear "invitation to repression" in order to give a pretext to label the government as "oppressive" or "fascist." This was a manipulative maneuver.
7. The surprised police officer in charge decided to turn water cannon on the violent marchers to prevent an escalation of violence. This shows good judgment on the part of the Philippines National Police (PNP) officers detailed to the area.
8. The marchers clearly violated the conditions of the permit given to them and abused the initial leniency of the police. This shows the marchers' disregard for the law.
9. The leaders of the marchers, in trying to sneak in and then force their way into the Mendiola area, made the situation tense, confused, and ripe for terrorist intervention. This indicates that these leaders of the marchers lacked basic common sense, or had no regard for the physical safety and peace of mind of the residents of the thickly populated Mendiola area.
10. The fact that Malacañang has a security perimeter is very reasonable in these times of terrorism. Even the United States of America, with the high level of financing and sophistication of its police and intelligence services, has had to impose a security perimeter around the White House, within which no rallies can be held, although the area is thinly populated, not being a residential one.
11. The "calibrated preemptive response" (CPR) of the PNP, by whatever name it may be called, is correct and should be maintained for the sake of public safety and recovery of respect for the authority of the state. It simply means applying in a consistent manner the degree of firmness needed in each given situation, to allow the expression of human rights and at the same time preserve or restore public safety and order.
12. Inconsistency of application of any policy to suit special pleading, even from groups that invoke religion, undermines respect for the law, and does all citizens harm.
13. These elements of politicization, bad faith, violent behavior, lawlessness, and disregard for the safety and peace of mind of residents of the zone show that the marchers were intent on carrying out a political propaganda action. People have commented that in fact what took place on their part was not an authentic act of religious worship, but rather a blatant manipulation of religion for partisan political ends.
14. In the context of the events connected with the rally and march, the carrying of images of the Blessed Virgin Mary was another aspect of manipulation of religion which is blasphemous and offensive to the sensibilities of many believers who are Marian devotees.
15. Our sense is that the actions of the Church personnel in that rally and march last 14 October have led to more division rather than unity in the Church and the nation.

We support the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in the words of its President Archbishop Fernando Capalla who advised the bishops that their duty is to ask people to love and forgive.

And we quote His Eminence: "A bishop is a shepherd who, while exhorting his flock to assert their rights, must always remind them that Christians are obliged in all cases to reject vengeance and to be prepared to forgive and to love their enemies."

There can never be justice without forgiveness, said His Eminence, citing the pastoral exhortation of the late Pope John Paul II in his ***Pastores Gregis.*** And Archbishop Capalla added: "Hard as it may be to accept, for any sensible person, the matter seems obvious: true peace is possible only through forgiveness."

We earnestly pray for you and for the nation, that God may enlighten and strengthen all of us; for the good of our people.

Signed this 18th day of October, in the year of Our Lord 2005:

Gov. Erico B. Aumentado
Bohol,
National President
Union of Local Authorities of the Phils./League of Provinces of the Philippines

Mayor Jerry P. Trenas
Iloilo City
Nat'l. President, League of Cities of the Philippines

Mayor Ramon N. Guico, Jr.
Binalonan, Pangasinan
Nat'l. President, League of Municipalities of the Phils

Vice Gov. James Calisin
Nat'l. Chairman, LVGP

BM Alan D. Zulueta
Nat'l. Chairman,
Provincial Board Members
League of Phils

Vice Mayor Jesse C. Cruz
Mandaluyong City
Nat'l President, VMLP

Coun. Carlo Fortuna
National President
Phil. Councilors League

Comm. Ariel Joseph Arcillas
Nat'l. President,
Sangguniang Kabataan

Mayor Corazon Abad
President, Lady Mayors Assoc. of the Phils.

BM Shirley Aala
Nat'l. President,
Lady Local Legislators League

Coun. Elmer Datuin
Nat'l Chairman,
Phil. Councilors League

Gov. Tomas N. Joson III
Nueva Ecija
EVP, League of Provinces of the Philippines

Gov. Imelda Q. Dimaporo
Lanao del Norte

Gov. Ben Evardone
Eastern Samar

Gov. Enrique Garcia
Bataan

Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia
Cebu

Gov. Benjamin Loong
Sulu

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay
Zambales

Gov. Leo Ocampos
Misamis Occidental

Gov. Arnan Panaligan
Oriental Mindoro

Gov. Adolph Edward Plaza
Agusan del Sur

Gov. Rosette Y. Lerias
Southern Leyte

Gov. Rolando Yebes
Zamboanga del Norte

Gov. Edgar Lara
Cagayan

Gov. Sally Perez
Antique

Gov. Pedro Romualdo
Camiguin

PB Ramona Yder
ABC President, Antique

Mayor Caesar G. Dy
Cauayan City

Mayor Jolly Resuello
San Carlos City

Mayor Democrito Plaza II
Butuan City

Mayor Randolph Ting
Tuguegarao City

Mayor Melquiades I. Gaite
VP Luzon, LMP

Mayor Geminiano G. Galicia Jr.
San Andres, Romblon

Mayor Ma. Luisa Menzon
Lapinig, N. Samar

Mayor Napoleon Dy
Chapter President,
Isabela

Mayor Hector C. Villanueva
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Mayor Dennis G. Pineda
Lubao, Pampanga

Mayor Ronald Allan G. Cesante
Dalaguete, Cebu

Mayor Zenaida S. Azcuna
Lopez Jaena, Misamis Occidental

Mayor Christopher H. Piccio
Belison, Antique

Mayor Ma. Zita C. Valera
Bangued, Abra

Mayor Gerardo V. Calderon
Angono, Rizal

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Bunye eyed as GMA media czar

From page A1

plan to create the PCG and his appointment as its head, but he declined.

Early this week, Velarde said the President needed a spokesperson who had charisma, was not combative, and could speak with clear authority from her.

He said he had given Ms Arroyo this advice in an effort to help her win public support against those seeking her ouster.

"One thing I have been telling the President repeatedly is that there are too many [voices] in the administration sending the wrong signals. I have advised her to look for a better spokesman, and only one," said Velarde, who is also a spiritual adviser of Ms Arroyo.

Velarde said Bunye no longer had credibility and often left people wondering whether he was talking for himself or for his boss.

Besides, he said, Bunye had been on the job long enough to give way to "someone fresh."

"Secretary Bunye is a good man, but his flip-flopping on the issue of the 'Garci' tape has caused people to ask, every time he speaks, 'Does the President know that? Is that her statement?'" Velarde said, adding:

"And another thing is, there is a better way of advancing a forceful argument in a nice way, not in a combative way."

Velarde was referring to Bunye's erratic statements on the "Hello, Garci" tape—the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and a man believed to be then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano—which he was the first to present to the public.

Guts

Bunye, who used to be unflappable under pressure, has lately been issuing strong words against protesters and critics of Ms Arroyo, lumping them together as "destabilizers."

Velarde said the spokesperson of the President should speak with authority.

"[She needs] someone fresh, with the guts to tell [her] what is right and wrong. At the same time, someone who has charisma, such that when you face the people, the mere sight of your face will compel them to listen," said the man who has used his personal charisma to maintain an estimated following of five million.

"But now, what I hear people say when they see his (Bunye's) face ..." Velarde said, trailing off and shaking his head.

In Velarde's reckoning, it is just right for the President to be surrounded by numerous advisers.

"But at the end of the day, the President's words must remain; it's her decision that must prevail. And it cannot be that [her spokesperson] will say, 'That was just my personal opinion; the President does not know about it,'" Velarde said.

He added: "[The spokesperson has] to clear every pronouncement with the President."

Eduardo Ermita sober

Velarde said conflicting statements were contributing to Ms Arroyo's problems.

"Don't put the President in a delicate situation," he said. "Most of her problems now are not of her own making," he said.

Among the Cabinet members, Velarde finds Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita "sober."

Ermita "does not invite counterforce, and [talks] without being an apologist," Velarde said.

But he took issue with Ermita's recent statement that elderly critics of Ms Arroyo, like former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, better stay home and not take part in protest rallies.

Velarde has denounced the violent dispersal of protest rallies in Manila, and called on the President to immediately withdraw the calibrated preemptive response policy used by police on demonstrators.

Failure

The President created the OCD just a few months after the May 2004 elections, with an eye toward consolidating the government's disjointed propaganda machine.

She has blamed her communications people for supposedly failing to convey to the public her numerous projects and achievements. This supposed failure is believed to have resulted in her perennially dismal approval ratings.

The OCD's first and only head, Silvestre Afable, quit the post in June after less than a year in office, reportedly because of his frustration over his inability to achieve the office's goal of being a seamless, professional and technology-driven communications group.

The OCD lacked a budget and was getting its funds from the Office of the Press Secretary. Afable was also unable to assert his will, supposedly because of the clash of egos in Malacañang and the fact that there were others with the same Cabinet rank as he.

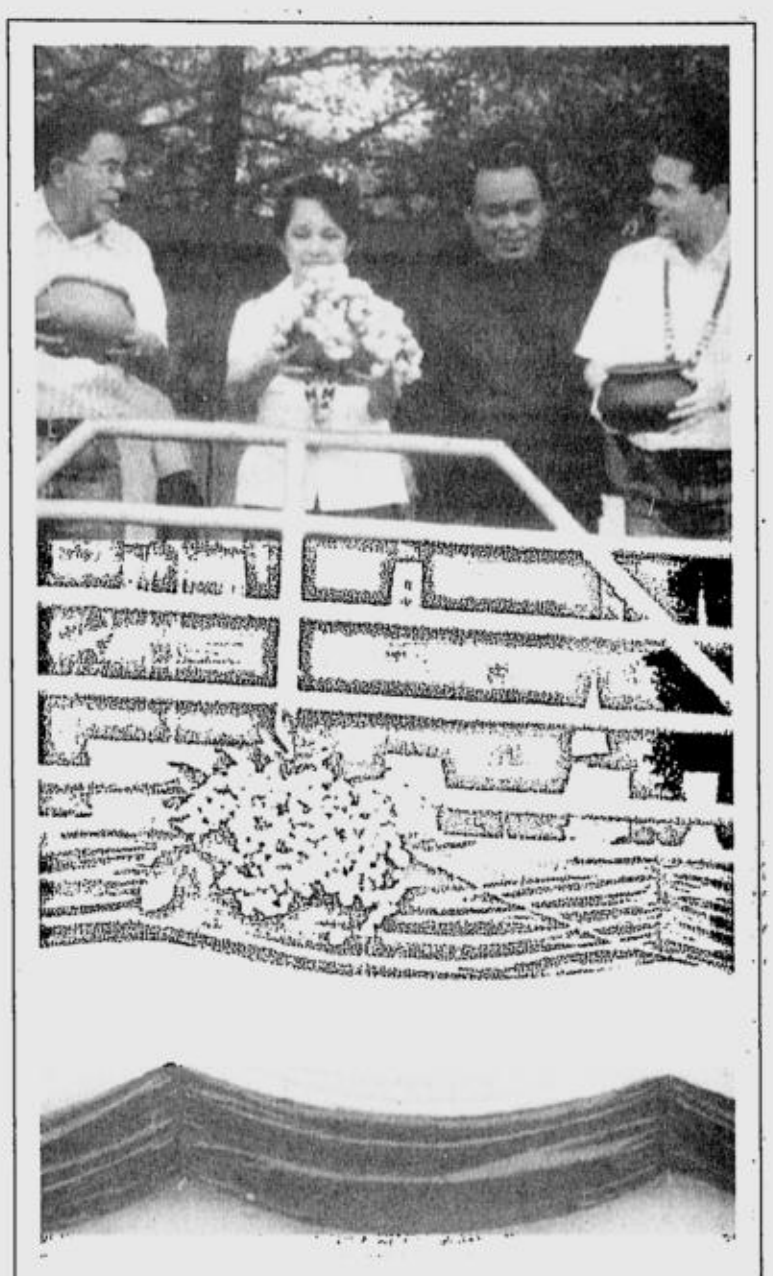
Although the President put the OCD on top of the Office of the Press Secretary, the Philippine Information Agency, the Correspondence Offices, the speech writers group, the communications research group, and the government media group, Malacañang's communications group has remained fragmented—and Ms Arroyo's ratings are still at the bottom levels.

Better chance

The Palace insider said that with Bunye poised to broaden his sphere of influence in the communications group, the PCG had a better chance of fulfilling the goals of the defunct OCD as envisioned by the President.

But Bunye has been reviled for his alleged attempt to mislead the public in the "Hello, Garci" scandal, and for supposedly putting the President in a deeper hole.

He has claimed that there was a "Hello, Gary" tape, and was the first to say that it was the President's voice on the tape.



BREAKING a pot full of freshly harvested lanzones, President Arroyo opens the 26th Camiguin Lanzones Festival. Flanking the President are (left) Camiguin Gov. Pedro Romualdo, Rep. Jurdin Jesus Romualdo and Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano. PALACE PHOTO

Hyatt 10 don't only get to Mendiola, cops escort them

From page A1

Bridge, popularly known as Mendiola, and on to San Beda chapel for a prayer rally. They were flanked on either side by a line of policemen linking hands.

Unlike on Friday, there was no incident during the march yesterday—the first allowed on Mendiola since Ms Arroyo announced a calibrated preemptive response policy, or CPR, on dissenters seeking her ouster for allegedly stealing last year's election.

On Friday, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, three bishops and several politicians attempted to cross the bridge en route to San Beda Chapel but were hosed down by police.

The incident sparked outrage among Church leaders and politicians and warnings that Ms Arroyo's tough policy on protest actions was exacerbating the already tense political atmosphere.

'We're not enemies'

Yesterday's protest by the Black and White Movement was led by former Cabinet Secretaries Corazon Soliman, Florencio Abad and Teresita Deles. They had resigned in July and had called on Ms Arroyo to quit as well.

The protesters chanted "Bayan Ko" and carried small cardboards strung on their necks saying "We are not enemies," "No to CPR" and "No to EO 464," referring to Ms Arroyo's order banning officials from appearing in congressional hearings without her permission.

Abad said he hoped future mass movements would be as peaceful.

"I hope there will be no double standard in other rallies like the one that would be held on Friday," he said, pointing to the planned massive protest by leftwing groups at Mendiola.

Abad's group converged in front of a fast food restaurant on C.M. Recto Avenue and after discussions with police officers, proceeded to Mendiola. During the negotiations, the leaders harangued the crowd and singer Leah Navarro crooned her song "Kailangan Kita" to the delight of around 100 policewomen.

Surprised

They offered flowers at the foot of the statue of the late Manila Times publisher Chino Roces before entering San Beda, where they stayed for 15 minutes. Media were barred from entering the chapel.

"They claimed that they were given a permit by San Beda to hold a prayer assembly inside the church, but when we checked, church authorities claimed otherwise," a policeman said, explaining why the group was initially halted.

Asked whether they were given a permit to rally, Abad said "no permit is needed as we're just there to pray."

Abad said he was surprised his group was allowed to cross Mendiola.

Although the demonstrators claimed that what they had was just a prayer rally, they repeatedly chanted "Gloria resign" before they dispersed.

In Las Piñas, a caravan of more than 1,000 farmers continued its march toward Mendiola. It began in Calamba, Laguna, on Monday but had to face down truncheon-bearing policemen and three firetrucks yesterday before they were allowed to continue to the capital for the rally on Friday.

A massive traffic jam occurred at the Alabang-Zapote road during the four-hour standoff.

The group spent the night at Baclaran church. Today, they will push for Ayala in Makati and on to the departments of agriculture and agrarian reform before the big rally on Friday in Mendiola.

DOUBLE WHAMMY

Oil firms raising prices due to VAT

By Abigail L. Ho

ON TOP OF THE 10-PERCENT value-added tax (VAT) on fuel, oil firms still have some cost recoveries of P2.50 a liter for gasoline and P1 for diesel, which they will have to eventually pass on to consumers.

The Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (Ippca) said oil firms had yet to fully reflect in their pump prices the significant surge in world oil prices the past months.

By Nov. 1, the price of regular gasoline should increase by P2.85 a liter, unleaded gasoline by P3.40 a liter and diesel by 93 centavos a liter due to the VAT, according to Ippca president Glenn Yu said.

Despite the removal of excise taxes and the lowering of tariffs on fuel, gasoline prices would still go up by at least 6.9 percent, diesel by 3.4 percent and liquefied petroleum gas by 7.9 percent.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have increased 21 times by a total of P10.85 a liter, while diesel fuel prices have gone up 19 times by a total of P9.55 a liter. Cooking gas prices have also risen 10 times by a total of P7.15 per kilogram.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P35.55 and P36.42 a liter, diesel at between P31.29 and P33.85 a liter, kerosene at between P32.60 and P34 a liter, and LPG at between P422 and P484 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

With the advent of the winter months in the western hemisphere, Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said earlier that diesel and cooking gas prices should start inching up as these fuels were usually used for heating.

To protect bodyguard, Jamby offers marriage

From page A1

room was cramped, but the cameras were there and so was a priest, Fr. Robert Reyes, who accompanied Madrigal.

Lest she be accused of proposing to commit concubinage or adultery, Madrigal was in fact simply suggesting that she and Doromal protect a police officer assigned as the senator's bodyguard.

"If you are the father (of your men), then I'm the mother. Let's get married then," she said, drawing laughter.

Accompanied by her lawyer, Madrigal had rushed to the Police Security and Protection Office, which Doromal heads, to complain that her bodyguard, PO3 Napoleon Simundo, had been harassed by the office.

Don't put him down

Simundo's immediate superior is Doromal.

"All I ask from the chief superintendent is that they don't put him (Simundo) down," Madrigal told Doromal.

"No of course, ma'am, we don't do that," said Doromal.

"I treat those who work under me as family," said Madrigal.

"I understand ma'am. We know that. You know ma'am, as head of this office, I'm like their father here," Doromal said.

"Then," the senator cut the officer short, "I'm the mother, so let's get married."

The exchange somehow eased the tension in the room.

Threatening messages

Madrigal said Doromal's office had been harassing Simundo by sending him text messages around midnight Tuesday, telling him to report immediately to Camp Crame.

If the text messages had appeared threatening, it might have been the result of the overeagerness of the officer tasked to carry out his order, said Doromal.

Doromal said he had summoned Simundo to give him a first-hand account of what had happened on Friday when the senator and other protesters were hosed down during a prayer rally near Mendiola.

Doromal wanted to find out if Simundo was the person seen on video who dropped a hand gun and then picked it up.

Madrigal said it was another security officer, Rey Nanale, assigned to her by the Senate, who was caught on camera. She said Nanale was duly authorized to carry the service firearm and to protect her any time.

Second video released

As security officer, Simundo has been entrusted with the duty of protecting the senator. Her safety is paramount, Doromal said. But he said that if he were in Simundo's place he would not have carried a gun to the rally, where the gun could easily be stolen.

Doromal also assured Madrigal that there was no order or plan to recall Simundo.

Also yesterday, police released another video of Friday's rally, this time showing a man wearing a green shirt, handing over an object to a man in white who appeared to have tucked the item in his waist. The man in white then rejoined the protesters.

"I had my suspicions," said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

The National Police chief spokesperson said an investigation was under way.

The release of the two videos was obviously meant to justify the police action on Friday.

"We're very concerned at what's happening in the ranks of rallyists. We want to protect the protesters as well as our men. We don't like it to turn into a disaster later on," he said.

Asked about the possibility that the object being passed in the second video was harmless, Bataoil replied: "Well and good if it's not something that can harm them. That's also our hope—that it's something harmless."

"But as peace officers, we must be conscious of these things," he said.

Palace adopts 'Big Brother' strategy at Mendiola

From page A1

"We hope that with this footage, the public will understand that what happened last Friday was not just an action of the police but rather a provocative act of some fellow," Ermita said.

Aside from sending a strong message to demonstrators that all their actions would be closely watched, Querol said that the video films would be used as basis to defend Malacañang's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) strategy.

Reconstructing events

"Our decision to use cameras served us well because we were able to reconstruct the events," Querol said.

Querol said that the police brought with them three cameras in last Friday's rally and he hinted that they might bring in more if the demonstrations become bigger.

"We expect more rallies to come and the police are ready to enforce the law including the use of water cannon which has been effective in calming down emotions," Querol told reporters.

There were rumors that authorities had a second video showing more incriminating evidence against the protesters but Querol refused to confirm this.

Malacañang is visibly gearing up for intensified protest actions in the coming days.

No-rally zone

The Presidential Security Group has stacked up the Mendiola gate leading to the Palace with several steel cargo containers while Palace in-house welders have been busy making dozens of heavy steel barricades wrapped in barbed wire.

Manila City Hall is firming up moves to make Malacañang and its perimeter, including the Mendiola Bridge, a no-rally zone similar to the zoning restrictions imposed at the White House area in Washington D.C.

Ermita said authorities were treating the gun incident as a "very serious matter" that no apology would be enough to absolve the culprits.

Sorry not enough

"Saying I'm sorry will not be enough, they were caught on camera," said Ermita when asked if the Palace was willing to gloss over the incident.

Querol said the law does not state any exemption to the ban on carrying firearms in a rally.

"The police could have been blamed if his gun had fired when it fell and caused panic or bloodshed," said Querol who has ordered an investigation on the culpability of the persons involved in the incident.

Ermita expected the bodyguard to protect his boss, Madrigal, and say that he carried the gun without the knowledge of the senator.

Wanted: Another name for CPR

Also yesterday, National Police chief Arturo Lomibao said he was strongly considering using another label in describing response to protest actions. He said CPR was causing too much headaches.

He said he would consult with other stakeholders, including businessmen from Makati, who had approved of CPR.

It was unclear, however, what term the police might use as a substitute for CPR, which had earned the ire of militants and human rights advocates. Its enforcement has been viewed as a prelude to martial law and an excuse for police brutality.

In a dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights, Lomibao explained that CPR was the "application of the correct meaning of maximum tolerance as provided for in Batas Pambansa 880."

CHR chair Purificacion Quisumbing told the police chief that since many had appeared to be confused about the meaning of CPR, including the antiriot police themselves, perhaps the police might want to stop using the word completely.

Clueless police

She said many in the civil disturbance management unit of the police were clueless about the distinction between CPR and maximum tolerance.

"Up to now, it is not clear or definite what CPR means. There is no CPR under the law. We can't even talk about it in relation to human rights standards because we don't know what it is," Quisumbing said.

Lomibao said the CHR gave valuable input for the revised police rules in dealing with protesters.

With a report from DJ Yap

Pinoy food for separated RP twins

VALHALLA, NEW YORK – AS ARLENE Aguirre prepares to move into a new home with her sons Carl and Clarence, the formerly conjoined twins, the idea of her very own kitchen seems to be what she thinks about most.

"I can cook Filipino food," she said, "and we can sit and have breakfast and I can be in my pajamas and we don't have to worry about who's coming in."

Within a couple of weeks, the Aguirres will be leaving Blythedale Children's Hospital, which has been their home ever since they left the Philippines two years ago. During that time, the boys underwent extensive operations that climaxed in August 2004 with their separation at Montefiore Medical Center.

The 3-year-olds and their mother are moving into a three-bedroom house in suburban New York that is leased from the village by Westhab, a nonprofit organization that provides housing and social services for low-income families.

Because Arlene Aguirre has no income, the rent is being waived by the village and furniture has been donated.

"I am grateful for all the gifts Carl and Clarence and I have been given since we arrived here in the US," Aguirre said at a news conference at Blythedale, as Clarence played a table game and Carl clung to the family's social worker. "The gift of a temporary place to call home is exciting because the boys and I can finally live like every other family in a home of our own."

She said she was "a little scared and nervous" to go out on her own without the 24-hour support she's had at Blythedale, but added, "I know I can handle it." *AP*

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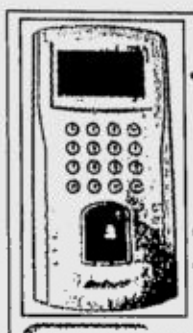

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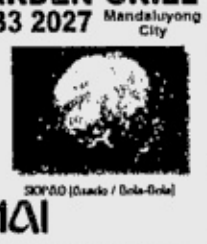

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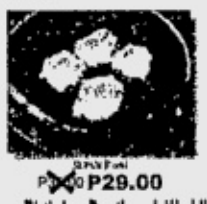

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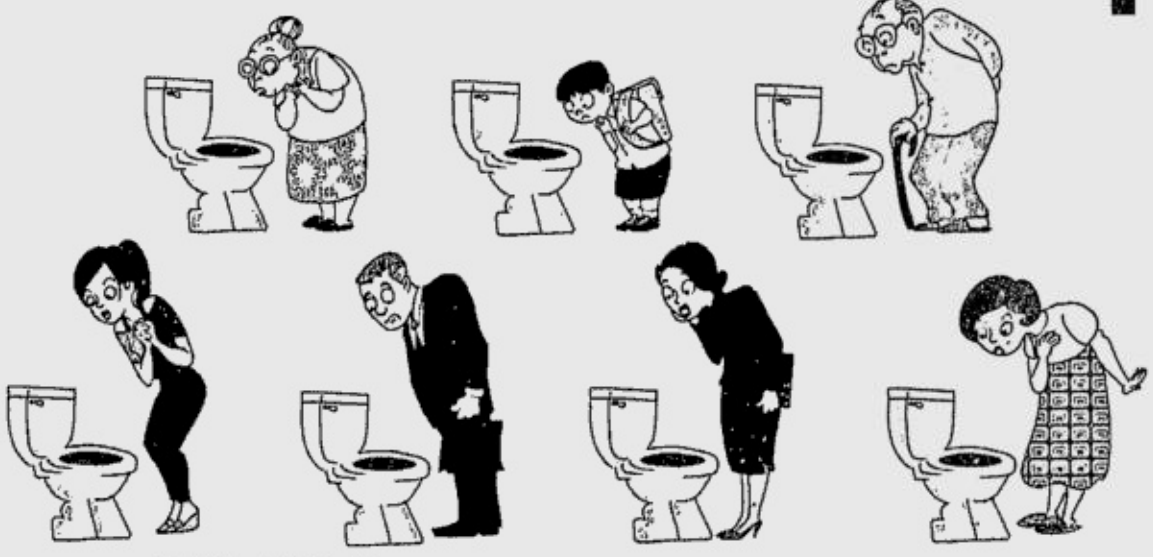

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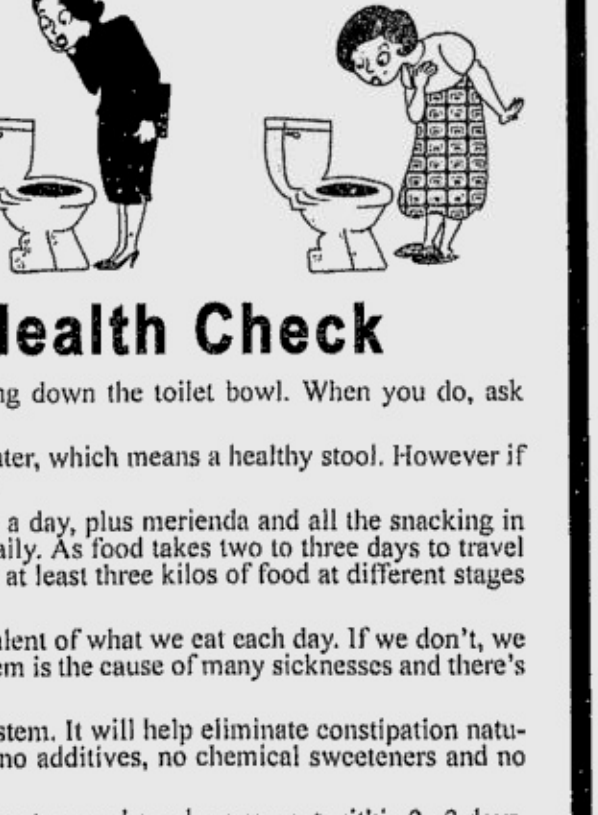

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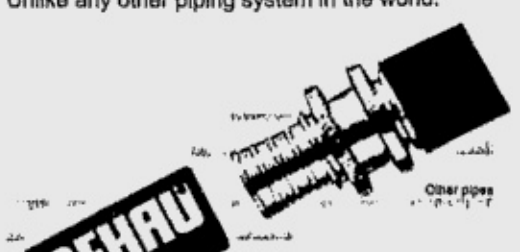

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

EU declares bird flu a 'global threat'

LUXEMBOURG—THE EUROPEAN UNION DEclared the spread of bird flu from Asia into Europe a "global threat" requiring international cooperation, saying western Europe was poorly prepared to deal with an influenza emergency.

Western European governments are scrambling to buy industrial quantities of flu vaccines and face masks to protect citizens from possible infection.

EU Health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou said on Tuesday that most of the 25 EU governments lack sufficient stocks of antiviral drugs designed to boost resistance to the common flu of such risk groups as the elderly, the young, diabetics and others.

He said the EU was working on a deal with the pharmaceutical industry whereby EU governments will "increase vaccination for seasonal flu ... and the industry will invest more to build up manufacturing capacity."

"We have not reached the level of (vaccination) preparedness that we should have," Kyprianou told reporters after updating EU foreign ministers at an emergency meeting on the westward spreading of bird flu.

The EU was investigating a possible outbreak in Greece of the lethal H5N1 bird flu virus, which has killed 60 people in Asia. The H5N1 strain has been confirmed in Turkey and Romania.

Macedonian authorities said they will quarantine a small southern village, cull 10,000 chickens and send a sample from a dead chicken to Britain for bird flu testing following an outbreak of a highly contagious but common bird disease.

VETERINARIANS spray a disinfectant at a small poultry farm Oct. 18 in Oinousses islet off the eastern Greek island of Chios. AFP

Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche Holding AG, meanwhile, is building a new plant in the United States to boost production of its Tamiflu anti-viral drug amid fears about bird flu, and is ready to seek help from other companies to meet surging demand, the company said Tuesday.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the EU has a duty to reassure public opinion.

"Members of the public are bound to be concerned," he said after chairing the emergency EU foreign ministers meeting, adding that every effort must be made to show that there is a coordinated response to an outbreak.

The World Health Organization has said that although the arrival of the virus in a new location is worrying—because more virus means more opportunities for genetic mutations—it does not mean a human flu pandemic is closer.

Isolated outbreaks that are swiftly controlled pose a minor threat compared with prolonged outbreaks where birds continue to mix with people, as in Asia.

The EU health ministers, meeting Thursday and Friday, will discuss national flu preparedness programs, including the availability of anti-viral drugs. *AP*

Migration of deadliest form of avian flu is unstoppable, experts say

KUSCENNETI NATIONAL PARK, TURKEY—More than 178 species of migratory birds annually visit Kuscenneti, or "Bird Paradise," National Park, a few kilometers away from the farming village of Kiziksa in western Turkey where the most deadly form of bird flu was discovered.

Here, birds who stop for as long as a month on their long trip from Asia mingle with millions of domestic chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys that are in close daily contact with humans—making this little bird paradise a nightmare for health officials attempting to contain the H5N1 bird flu strain.

Health officials say it is impossible to stop the spread of H5N1 via migratory birds, and are now trying to minimize its impact on domestic poultry and humans, a challenge that will become more difficult as the birds move south.

The migratory birds that are believed to have brought H5N1 to Turkey are now leaving and will fly across the Middle East and into Africa, crossing some of the world's least developed and least transparent countries, where outbreaks are likely to be poorly reported, poorly managed, and where close contact between humans and animals will drastically increase the chances of a lethal mutation, experts believe.

Outbreaks in the Middle East and Africa could occur as early as November, and the threat is a constant one because the migratory patterns of different species of birds vary, and because the birds will fly back north toward Europe in the spring.

"The best situation is to avoid contact between poultry and wild animals, but it is not always possible, and it is more difficult in developing countries," said Jean-Luc Angot of the World Organization for Animal Health. "We have to help them very quickly."

Angot said he fears not only that H5N1 can devastate these developing countries, but that if the virus is not contained, migrating birds moving north in the spring will bring the virus with them to western Europe, and even more, that the longer H5N1 is in contact with humans, the greater the chances that it will undergo a genetic change.

Experts fear that the virus could mutate and what is now mainly an animal disease could begin to pass easily among humans—setting off a pandemic that could possibly kill tens of millions worldwide. The disease is now difficult for humans to catch, but has been lethal for more than half of the 117 people who have caught it, said Samuel Jutzi, division head of animal production and health at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

In undeveloped regions where people live close to their poultry, the chances of such a mutation are higher, Jutzi said, especially in seasons when the bird flu migration coincides with a time when the human influenza virus is also present. This increases the chances of a genetic hybrid being born either inside an infected person or inside another animal such as a pig, which can serve as a so-called "mixing vessel."

Pigs and humans are the only species known to be capable of contracting both bird flu and human flu. If the two viruses get into the same cell, they could swap genes and create a dangerous hybrid that spreads easily among humans but keeps the lethality of the bird strain.

So experts now believe the best way to control the disease is the wholesale destruction of poultry in affected areas, as was done earlier in Hong Kong, and more recently in parts of Turkey and Romania where the virus was confirmed.

But experts worry that this will be extraordinarily difficult in the African and Middle Eastern countries now on the migratory path. *AP*

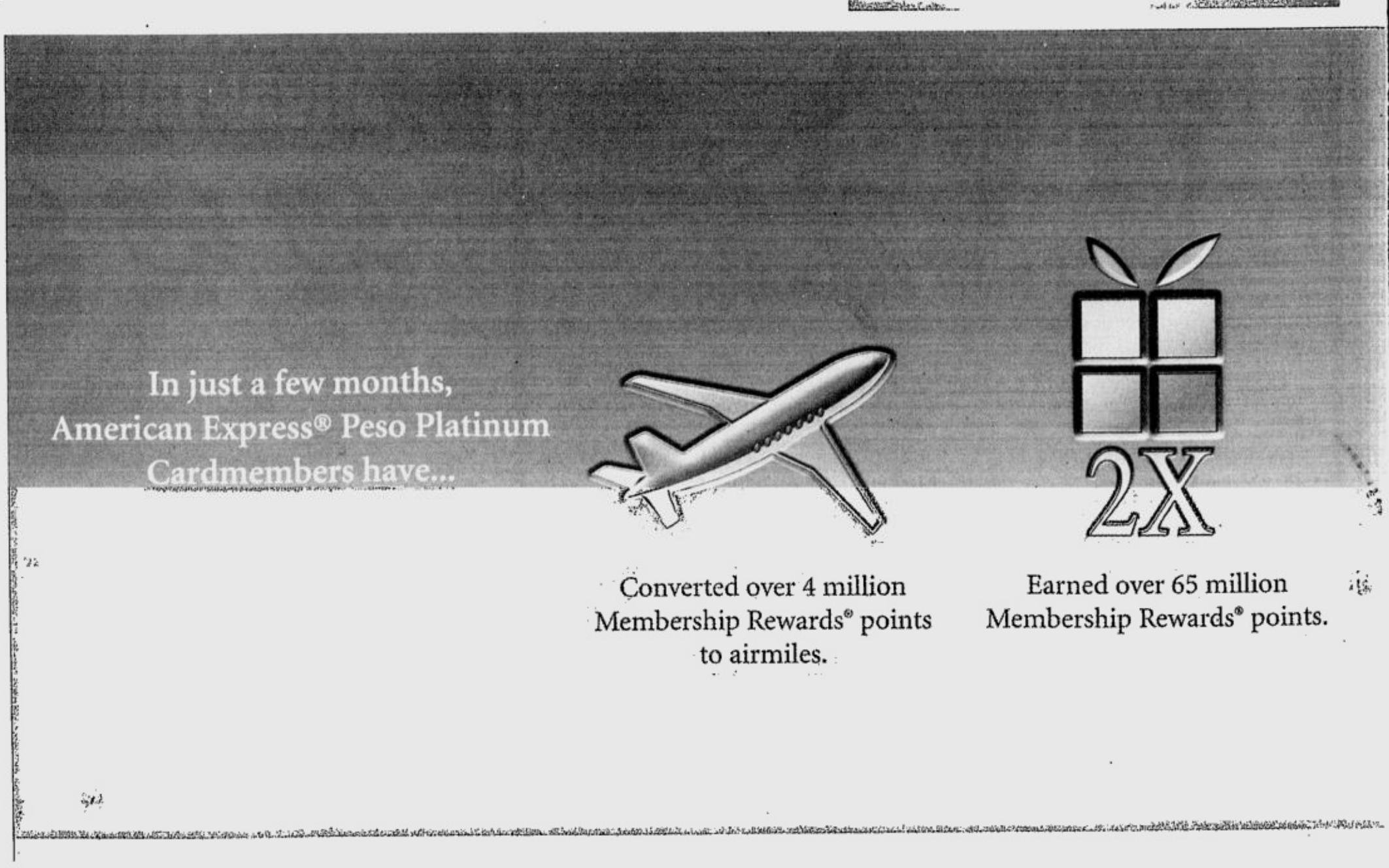
Category 5 Hurricane Wilma threatens Florida

MIAMI—HURRIcane Wilma intensified into an "extremely dangerous category five hurricane" early Wednesday, churning northward between western Cuba and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, the US National Hurricane Center said.

Wilma, the record-equalling 21st storm of the Atlantic season, strengthened to the highest level on the SaffirSimpson scale, the Miami-based center said in a bulletin at 0630 GMT.

"Data from a reconnaissance aircraft indicate that Hurricane Wilma has become an extremely dangerous category five hurricane," the center said half an hour after it had announced the storm had strengthened to category four.

Winds at the center of the storm were clocked at 281 kph, the center said, adding that the pressure, 892 millibars, was the lowest observed in 2005—and the lower the pressure, the stronger the storm. The hurricane was located 270 km south-southwest of Grand Cayman Islands and 640 km southeast of Cozumel, Mexico, and moving slowly west-northwest toward Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, but was expected to turn toward the northwest within 24 hours. *AFP*



Asian quake toll hits over 79,000

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—New casualty figures from the South Asian earthquake have pushed the death toll to more than 79,000, regional officials said Wednesday.

The new numbers come as two strong aftershocks jolted the devastated region, unleashing landslides and setting off another wave of panic among survivors who lost loved ones and homes in the Oct. 8 disaster.

Asif Iqbal Daudzai, information minister for Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, said Wednesday that 37,958 people died in the province and at least 23,172 were injured, majority of them in Mansehra district. He said the figures were based on reports from local government and hospital officials, and that the toll was likely to rise.

The prime minister of neighboring Pakistani-held Kashmir, Sikander Hayat Khan, said at least 40,000 people died in that region. India has reported 1,360 deaths in the part of Kashmir that it controls.

The new toll by local officials is higher than the official count provided each day by the central government. That number was raised to 47,700 confirmed dead as of Wednesday, with a warning that it would rise further. The central government count has lagged behind the local count since the early days of the disaster.

Wednesday morning's 5.8-magnitude aftershock struck 129 km north of Islamabad, near the epicenter of the main quake, according to the US National Earthquake Center in Colorado. It was followed by another in the same area about 45 minutes later that registered 5.6.

The first aftershock caused a landslide in Balakot, one of the cities hardest hit by the initial quake. Debris covered the road to nearby Mansehra, but it was quickly cleared, said Pakistani Army Lt. Col. Saeed Iqbal, who is in charge of relief efforts in the area.

A landslide also blocked a road out of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, but it was expected to be cleared later in the day.

Iqbal said the aftershock was "very heavy" and that he saw dust rising from the Kaghan Valley north of Balakot, possibly indicating an additional landslide. He said he had no immediate reports from his 60 teams of soldiers that were carrying in relief goods in the vicinity. *AP*

10,000 more children could die, Unicef warns

ISLAMABAD—THE UNITED NAtions Children's Fund (Unicef) warned Wednesday that 10,000 more children could die from hunger, cold and disease in coming weeks because aid has still not reached parts of quake-hit Pakistan.

Unicef called for immediate steps to push through more supplies, saying that children would be the first victims in a possible "second wave of deaths" as winter approaches.

Up to 120,000 children remain unreached in mountain areas devastated by the Oct. 8 quake, "of whom the agency estimated some 10,000 could die of hunger, hypothermia and disease within the next few weeks," it said in a statement.

"The relief effort is becoming more complex with each passing day," the statement quoted Unicef executive director Ann Veneman as saying at the agency's global warehouse in Copenhagen.

She said outbreaks of diarrhea had already been reported in stricken areas and there was a "significant threat of disease." Pakistan says the quake killed at least 41,000 people and left 3.3 million homeless. Thousands of the dead were children, many of whom were crushed when their schools collapsed.

Unicef called for more helicopters to help reach survivors in isolated mountain areas, where access was difficult even before the quake which destroyed most roads and paths.

"There are still too few helicopters to reach more than 1,000 remote villages with life-saving supplies that children urgently need," Veneman said, adding that the agency also lacked humanitarian partners to make deliveries.

"Given the intermittent shutdowns of the air corridor because of bad weather, the consequences for sick and injured children could be grave," she said.

The Unicef chief added that temperatures were dropping and roads to stricken areas have become clogged with mud and people fleeing the mountains with their injured. *AFP*

Russia takes 1st Brazilian to space

MOSCOW—BRAZILian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on the first full day of a politically groundbreaking first visit to Moscow Tuesday signed a 20 million dollar deal to send one of his compatriots into space on a joint Russo-Brazilian mission.

Greeted at the Kremlin by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Lula applauded as the two countries' space agencies signed the contract which should see Brazilian cosmonaut Marcos Pontes take one of the three places on the Russian Soyuz spacecraft when it blasts off next year bound for the International Space Station (ISS).

"We plan to move to the creation of a 'technological alliance' with Brazil, in particular in the field of space," Putin said at the signing ceremony at the Kremlin.

"The signing of this contract to send in 2006 a Brazilian cosmonaut to the ISS is an important step in this direction," Putin said. *AFP*

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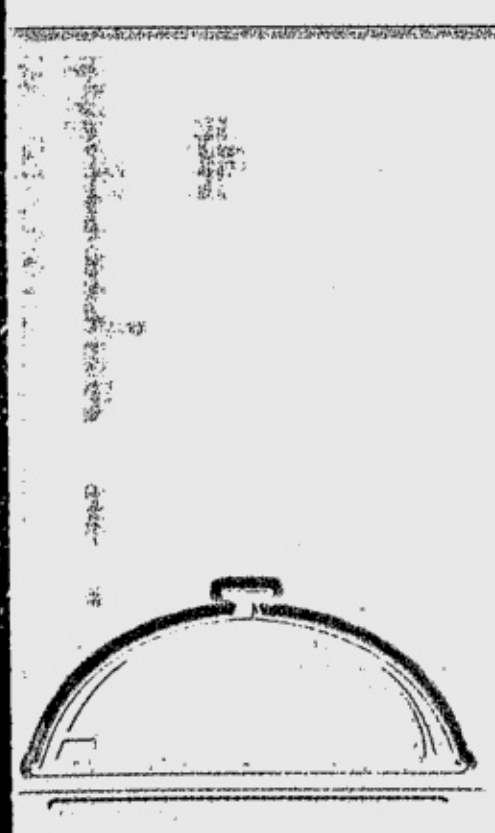

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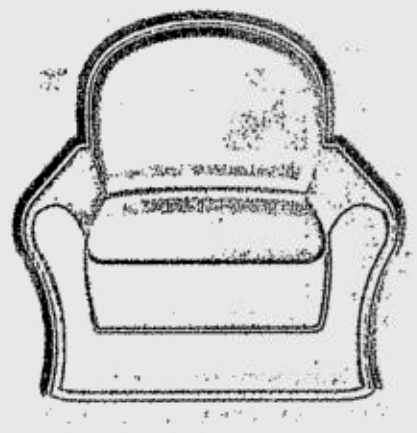

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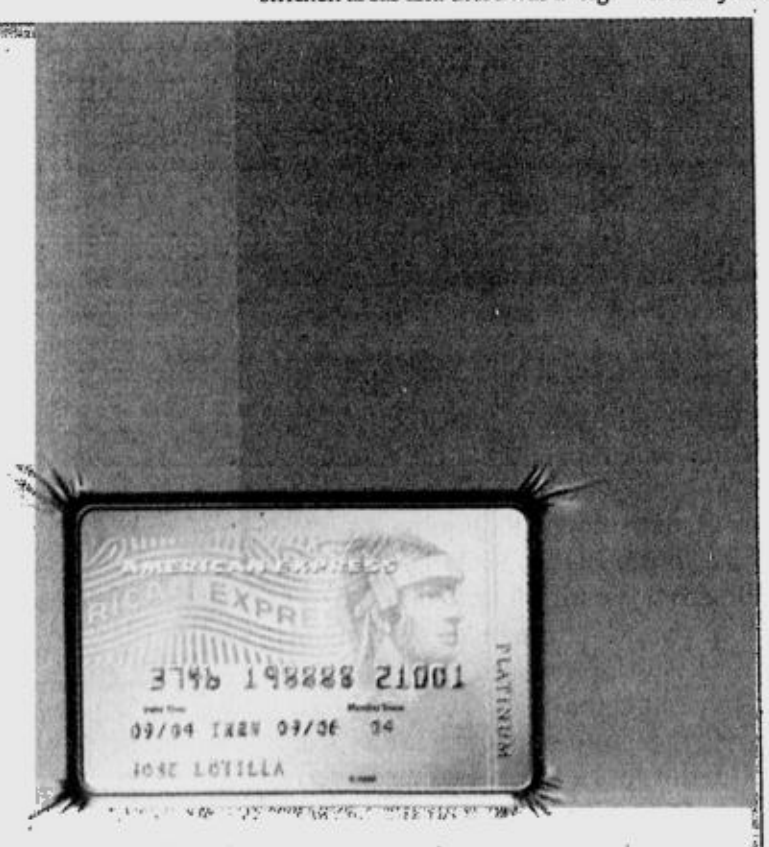

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OPINION

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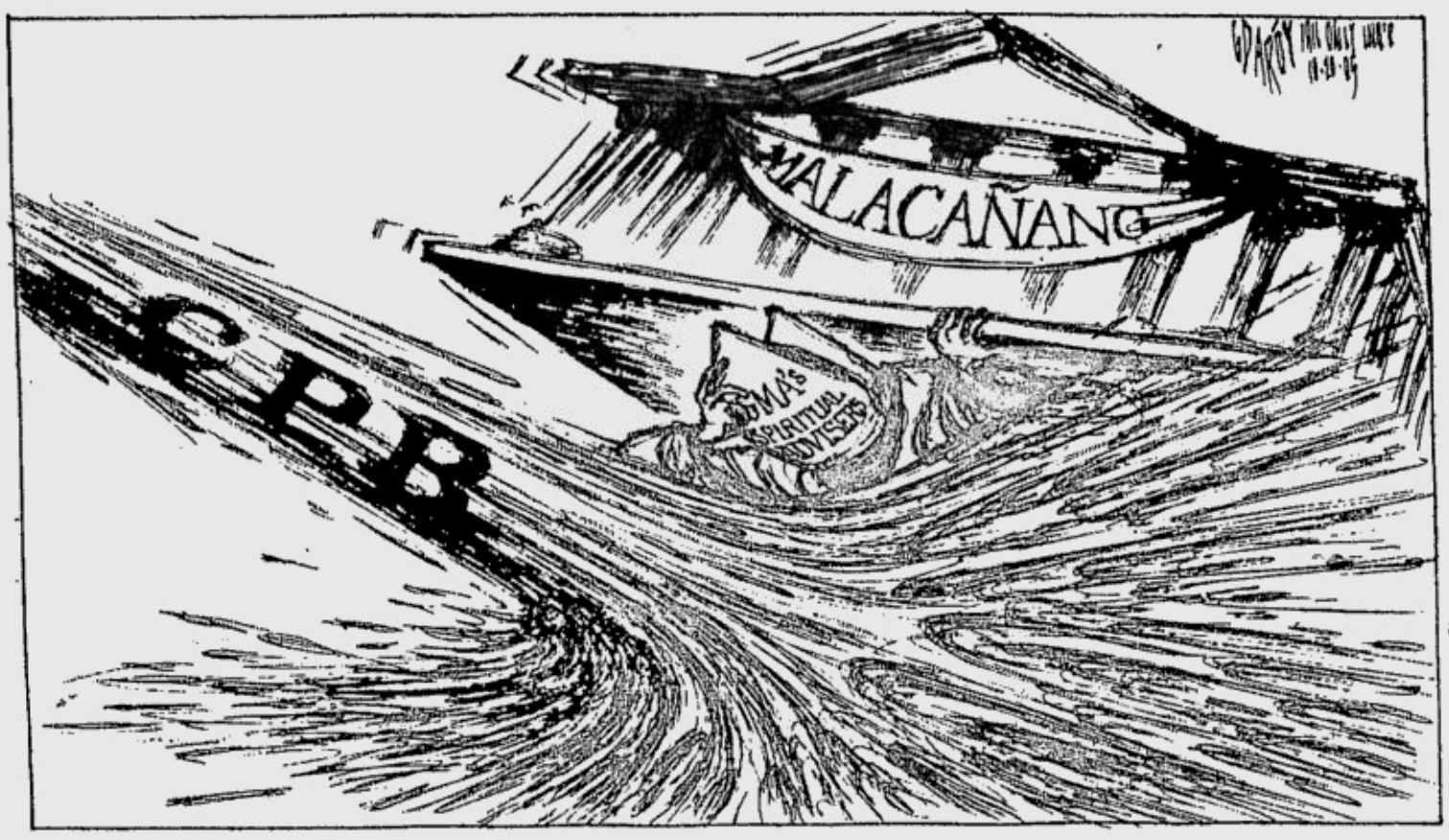

Sacrifice?

EDITORIAL

LAST JUNE 29, THREE DAYS AFTER SHE APOLOgized to the nation for calling an election official at a crucial stage in the election process, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced before a gathering of businessmen that First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was going into self-imposed exile, as an act of "sacrifice...to remove himself from any situation which will cast doubt on my presidency." The President's husband, together with their son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, and Mr. Arroyo's brother, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, had been accused earlier of receiving millions of pesos in payoffs from *jueteng*.

As the First Gentleman prepared to leave, talk was rife that Mikey and Iggy were going to resign from the House of Representatives. Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, who also serves as one of Ms Arroyo's economic advisers, said, "They're my friends, but I think they have to go. We need to put some finality to this issue. Let's give in to the people. Since she already admitted to her mistake, she has to accept the penalty. There has to be penance and penance requires admission, repentance, restitution." It was obvious not only to Salceda that sacrifices had to be made if only to ease the pressure on the scandal-battered Arroyo presidency.

The following day, the First Gentleman left for Hong Kong in what everybody thought was the start of his exile. (Unlike his previous trips to that shopping haven, this trip had daughter Luli sending him off at the airport.) But four days later, he was back. He would leave again on July 6, this time for what looked like real exile in the United States.

The resignations of the two other Arroyos have yet to materialize, although Mikey was supposed to have joined his father in exile. The President's brother-in-law has ruled out resignation, saying, "I will not resign or go on leave. I cannot abandon my oath."

Mike Arroyo flew back to the Philippines on July 31 to pay his final respects to his half-sister, Rosario Tuason Matute-Llora. He left again on Aug. 10 for another "indefinite" stay in the United States.

Mikey came home last month to attend the 31st birthday celebration of his brother Dato on Sept. 4, and to allow his wife to celebrate her own birthday on Sept. 5 with close relatives. And yes, of course, before anyone forgets, to make sure his constituents in Pampanga get the public service due them, although he is on official leave from Congress.

Mikey deserves credit for the very ingenious way he makes up for his absence—with his presence. Based on reports, Mikey went out of the country soon after her mother left for the UN Security Council meeting in New York. But he was back on Sept. 28 via Philippine Airlines flight PR 504 from Singapore. He has visited four Pampanga towns, according to a friend. He attended the anniversary celebration of the 355th Engineering Wing at Basa Air Base last Oct. 14. And he was seen playing golf at the Baguio Country Club that night.

So what for was all that fanfare about the father and son's departure? On Tuesday night, Mikey was on TV promoting his new movie. Is the Pampanga congressman perhaps on leave from his exile?

Whether the son or the father is here or lives elsewhere in the world hardly matters anymore. What is more important is that the charges that they received payoffs from illegal gambling lords are brought to court. In the meantime, the President and her family should drop all talk about the sacrifice of living in exile that some members of their family are making. It only serves to confirm the popular suspicion that no one should take the word of the President or the members of her family, both real and official. Not after the President reneged on her vow not to run in the 2004 presidential election and her half-hearted apology for talking with an election official. Not after Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's presentation of two "Hello Gary" tapes. Not after Environment Secretary Michael Defensor's tampered tapes. Not after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez warned about declaration of a state of emergency only to have it denied by Bunye. There is little coming out from Malacañang these days that people should take without a generous sprinkling of salt.

No other tribute

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THERE'S ONLY ONE ACCOLADE PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo can give Simeon Marcelo who, due to illness, will resign as ombudsman at the end of November. That's to appoint another Marcelo.

That requires refusal to skid into old gutters. The President slid into one in reappointing brigands, like fugitive Virgilio Garcillano, to crucial constitutional offices.

Men of talent, vision and rock-hard integrity are the rarest of resources. That is specially true for nations, like the Philippines, where tainted "leaders" handcuff us to treadmill crises.

Exasperated by political infighting, George Washington wrote: "Few have the virtue to withstand the highest bidder." Simeon Marcelo had what it took. International and local observers agree on that.

Street yokels, like us, got a first close look at this 1979 bar topnotcher during the Estrada impeachment trial. His low-key competent questioning of bank executive Clarissa Ocampo nailed down Jose Velarde, a.k.a Joseph Estrada.

Erap's defense panel today is still trying to expunge what Marcelo got into the records from questions he asked the poised and credible Ocampo. That's laurels of sort.

People liked what they saw then: a talented comer without guile. In Adlai Stevenson's words, he could "lead a cavalry charge without feeling funny astride a horse."

Thus, when President Arroyo appointed Marcelo as solicitor general in 2001, there were cheers. His solid performance led the President, a year later, to name him ombudsman—an office his predecessor had devalued into "an official valet for cronies," according to a Sun-Star editorial.

When news of Marcelo's resignation broke, a collective groan erupted. It's typical of the man that he quit without drumbeating. Whatever citizens learned of his health came indirectly.

"I feel pain all over my body," a pale Marcelo told his senior colleagues behind closed doors, the INQUIRER reported. In a country where sleaze has seeped into every cranny, working as graftbuster exacts a toll. "I'm physically and mentally exhausted," aides quoted him as saying.

There have been initial reviews on his all-too-short three-year tenure. Aside from hands-on oversight of high-profile cases, Marcelo's reforms range from a revamp of leakage-prone procurement systems to beefing up, by over 100, the agency's miniscule staff of 37 investigators. Some were trained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He cobbled links with civil society and church-based interfaith groups and boosted agency funding.

"Marcelo wanted to see the end of the Estrada case during his watch," the INQUIRER quoted an insider as saying. "He had wanted it as his legacy." Unfortunately, that will not come to pass, given the trial's turtle-pace.

"Reforms are in place," say Marcelo's deputies. "If these would be implemented, there's no reason why we cannot achieve our objectives."

That's a big if. And it hinges on who the President picks to fill Marcelo's shoes. Look at how a street-smart President Fidel Ramos blundered into naming Aniano Desierto as ombudsman, who wreaked havoc over a seven-year stretch.

As military prosecutor for Marcos' lawless regime, Desierto hounded those whose shoes he was never fit to wipe: former Senators Benigno Aquino, Jose Diokno and other dictatorship victims. Up to his death, former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada refused to even address Desierto directly.

A solicitor general's complaint mirrors Desierto's "performance": The ombudsman ignored "vital evidence" in dismissing a multi-billion graft case. This was lodged against Herminio Disini, a Marcos crony who skipped to Austria, on a purchased title of "count" after the Bataan nuclear plant scandal.

Desierto's messy record was paraded at the April 1996 Commission on Appointments' hearings. But Congress looked the other way.

"If this is what's ahead for the rest of his seven-year term, Ombudsman Desierto will be devoting a considerable amount of his official time protecting his hide," constitutional scholar Joaquin Bernas, S.J. predicted then.

"His image is shattered . . . and it is impossible for him to function effectively," the Ateneo professor wrote. "How the controversy around him plays out will say a lot about the future of corruption."

Who President Arroyo picks to replace the 53-year-old Marcelo will say a lot about the future of sleaze in her administration.

The 1987 Constitution adopted the Scandinavian innovation of a public interests defender. People's expectations of it are high. They feel, rightly, that an ombudsman's life and work must radiate that indefinable power which a King Bhumidol of Thailand, for example, wields: moral authority.

They also ask : How could a Joseph Estrada appoint incompetents like Luzviminda Tancangco to the Commission on Elections? Did Desierto's military uniform blind President Ramos?

We'll probably never know the answers. We must live with the sad reality that Chinese peasants stress: "Even emperors have straw-sandaled relatives."

The Judicial and Bar Council is there to help sift out seamy characters, before appointment papers reach the President's desk. Chief Justice Hilario Davide, who has thumbed down suggestions that he become ombudsman after retiring from the Supreme Court, says the JBC is reviewing candidates.

You can't fault this office's constitutional architecture. Perhaps, we can gripe that screening processes are flawed. But as always, the final decision rests with the President.

An old Hebrew proverb says, "The heart of man and the bottom of the sea are unfathomable." We shall see come Nov. 30.

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Then and now

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THEN: "AT 53, ARROYO PREPARES TO TAKE over the presidency, should incumbent President Joseph Estrada give in to the demands that he leave his post. Asked how soon Estrada should resign, she said: 'As soon as possible. If he could resign now, all the better.' She argues that President Estrada should leave Malacañang soon to save the failing economy. 'Things are so bad now.'" (Asiaweek, December 2000.)

Now: "Once again, we're subverting the rule of law...I will not resign." (July, 2005, replying to calls for her resignation.)

Then: "A day after she urged President Estrada to resign, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo stepped up her attacks against the President. She said the *jueteng* scandal hounding the President showed that his promise not to let his relatives and friends benefit from the government was just empty words." (PDI, 10/27/00)

Now: "Jueteng has gotten worse under GMA." (Archbishop Oscar Cruz told the Senate committee hearings on jueteng.) "What kind of government is this? Are we in a military state already? There are no more principles. There are no more values and morals. Everything is just about money, money, money." (Archbishop Cruz, when his witnesses began recanting.)

Then: "Leadership by example, transparency, a good work ethic and a dignified lifestyle," Arroyo said of the kind of government she intends to lead. "We need to improve moral standards in the government and Philippines' society." (Asiaweek, December 2000.)

Now: "Hello, hello, hello Garci. So will I still lead by more than 1 million?" (Exchange between GMA and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, which became a popular "ringtone.")

"All heads of departments of the executive branch of government shall secure the consent of the President prior to appearing before either house of Congress. [This includes] generals and flag officers of the AFP." (Text of EO 464.)

Then: "After due prayer and reflection... the Archdiocese of Manila officially supports the calls for President Joseph Estrada to resign....This call on our part is not a violation of the constitutional principle of separation of Church and State. It is being made because of the moral dimension contained in the political issues.

"The local Church as partaker in the prophetic role of Jesus Christ, her Founder, declares that our main reason for denouncing the bad news personified by the Estrada presidency and administration is his shameless trampling of the sacred moral values our people hold in high esteem. (Archbishop Fernando Capalla, November 2000.)

Now: "In the spirit of humility and truth, we declare our prayerfully discerned collective decision that we do not demand her (GMA's) resignation." (Archbishop Capalla, after GMA admitted to "talking to a Comelec official" during the counting of votes.)

Then: "I support the call to prayer and action issued by His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin. These turbulent and trying times require prayer and action from all of us. The current crisis of confidence that besets our country is severe. I join the call to participate in the Mass for the Nation at Malate Church Plaza on Dec. 7 so that we can unite in prayers and in action for a peaceful and decisive resolution of this crisis. I also support former President Cory Aquino's call for the people to stand vigil as the Senate performs its historic role for our nation." (GMA, December 2000)

Now: "They are hypocrites." (GMA, referring to the marchers the PNP water-cannoned last Friday. She said they had a "different agenda" than prayer in mind.) "They had it coming." (Ignacio Bunye, referring to the same incident.)

Then: "The indispensability of the people's freedom of speech and of assembly to democracy is now self-evident. The reasons are well put by Emerson: first, freedom of expression is essential as a means of assuring individual fulfillment; second, it is an essential process for advancing knowledge and discovering truth; third, it is essential to provide for participation in decision-making by all members of society; and fourth, it is a method of achieving a more adaptable and hence, a more stable community of maintaining the precarious balance between healthy cleavage and necessary consensus.

"It should be clear even to those with intellectual deficits that when the sovereign people assemble to petition for redress of grievances, all should listen. For in a democracy, it is the people who count; those who are deaf to their grievances are ciphers." (The Supreme Court ruling en banc on the case of Joseph Estrada vs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, upholding GMA's right to succeed Erap.)

Now: "No permit, no rally." (Calibrated Preemptive Response.)

Then: "Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo warned President Estrada against declaring a state of emergency to quell growing opposition to his administration. Arroyo said she would be busy in the coming days meeting with various cause-oriented, religious and political groups to discuss 'an alternative agenda.'" (Philippine Star Oct. 24. 2000.)

Now: "It's way off the mark. I don't think it (emergency rule) was considered at all." (Ignacio Bunye, on rumors GMA will declare martial law. In December 2002, his boss said she would not run again.)

Then: "I recognize that making such calls (to "a Comelec official") was a lapse in judgment. I am sorry." (GMA apology speech)

Now: "You break the law, you have to account for it. This applies to everyone, the rich and the poor, the powerless and the powerful. (Ignacio Bunye, on the water-cannoning of the protesters).

Then: "*Alis dyan!*" (Election slogan of Marcos camp against President Diosdado Macapagal, 1965).

Now: "*Alis dyan!*" (Rejection slogan of irate people against Non-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2005)

Bishops were not at Mendiola

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE'S A LOT OF DISINFORMATION AND misinformation about last Friday's protest action near Mendiola going around. To this day, six days after it was held, print media still refer to it as a "prayer rally led by three militant bishops, which was dispersed by the police."

What are the facts? One, the incident at Mendiola Bridge was no longer the prayer rally that was held earlier at Quiapo's Plaza Miranda, or the procession that peacefully ended at San Sebastian Church. The Mendiola incident was a political protest action.

Two, except for Fr. Robert Reyes who joined the politicians and militants, there were no bishops and religious when the rally was dispersed at Mendiola. They had gone home after the procession wound up at San Sebastian, so they couldn't have been hit by water cannons.

* * *

If there was public outrage over last Friday's dispersal, it stemmed mainly from perception that the police indiscriminately fired water cannons even at aging bishops and religious. What's sad, however, is that there has been no effort by the bishops to dispel the notion that they were harassed at Mendiola. Bishops Julio Labayen, Deogracias Yniguez and Antonio Tobias should be reminded that it's a sin to tell a lie. Their silence on this score would be constituted as a lie since they, wittingly or unwittingly, continue to encourage the perception that their persons were violated last Friday at Mendiola. That's not fair at all.

* * *

Several glaring facts can be gathered from interviews of the police officials, video footage of last Friday's interrelated episodes and media accounts. One is that the Plaza Miranda rally, which was led by the bishops, had a permit and that efforts were taken to make it look like a prayer rally, with the crowds chanting, *"Alisin si Gloria. Ipagdasal nyo sana."* Afterwards the group's leaders asked for permission to proceed with a procession of religious statues to San Sebastian Church, which the police granted. The crowds chanted a litany with anti-GMA overtones, but the procession went peacefully. At the end, lawyer Lorna Kapunan announced that the rally was finished and people started going home. The bishops got into their cars.

* * *

At that point, however, a group broke away and wanted to proceed to Chino Roces Bridge, where the no-rally zone commences. Linggoy Alcuaz and Rez Cortez were overheard inviting some sisters who were carrying religious images to join them, but the nuns chose instead to return the images to Paco Church. The breakaway group, led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Rep. Satur Ocampo, Sen. Jamby Madrigal, TV host Oscar Orbos and Fr. Robert Reyes, linked arms, followed by a large group of militants. The cry heard this time was no longer religious chants but *"Makibaka, huwag matakot."*

* * *

The group was stopped by phalanx of shield-wielding policemen, the PNP's first line of defense, a couple of meters from the bridge. The frontline marchers like Orbos and Guingona began negotiating with the police to allow them to cross to the San Beda College Church, but the police refused. As Metro Manila Police Director Vidal Querol told the media, "At that point there was no effective leadership on the ground among the ralliers." Which was, of course, a very dangerous thing, especially as night was falling.

At some point, the marchers began jostling with the police and then a melee ensued. Tension escalated. The police decided to turn on the water cannons, dousing both marchers and defenders, and effectively separating them. When the commotion died down, the police escorted Orbos to the San Beda Church where he was supposed to link up with lawyer Rene Saguisag and SBC students whom they had invited to join the march, but the students were no longer there. The church authorities didn't want to get involved.

* * *

This columnist asked Querol why the PNP came out quite late with the clarification that the bishops were never at Mendiola that Friday, thus giving El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting a reason to denounce the violation of the rights of religious people. He said the PNP wanted to verify facts first. After painstakingly going over the footage, it was clearly established that not a single bishop was there on Mendiola.

Querol also said the police didn't carry truncheons "because we really wanted to avoid bloodshed." Imagine, he rued, if they had truncheons then, *baka marami ang nasaktan.*

I pointed out that Sen. Joker Arroyo had observed that the water blasts used last Friday were stronger than those he and other activists had to endure during the martial law era. Querol said the stream of water was "parabolic, not a blast," adding that some marchers were seen on video falling even before the blast hit them. *"Nag-aartista na lang."* But the militants would dispute this vigorously.

* * *

Querol has been asked where was the clear and present danger that would justify the use of water cannons. To which he retorted, "Do we have to wait until bloodshed occurs?" He admitted that the use of water cannons were "unexpected," but then, he pointed out, that what followed after Plaza Miranda was also "unexpected." He said, *"Mas mabuti na lang na ang tubig ang umagos, sa halip na dugo ang dumanak,"* referring to the Mendiola massacre of 17 farmers early in President Cory Aquino's term.

What about Sen. Jamby Madrigal's bodyguard, who was caught in the video footage wielding a gun at Mendiola? That was clearly against the law, Querol opined while stressing that the incident would be investigated.

The Metro Manila PNP chief also lamented that some media organizations gave very slanted and one-sided accounts of Friday's episode. Many, he alleged, resorted to the "cut-and-paste" method of reporting by using only the facts that suited their slant.

'Shameful episode' in Australia

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A VISITING FRIEND FROM MELBOURNE brought with her an October copy of the Australian newspaper The Age that has the Vivian Alvarez Solon case as banner story. The ombudsman's report on the bungled immigration case had been released and the axe was expected to fall.

The banner article, Vivian's huge photo, blurbs and a cartoon occupy three-fourths of page one of the daily (which, in this age of shrinking broadsheets, maintains a size that is two columns wider than the INQUIRER). Inside are three more articles, Vivian's photo as a missing person, and other related items.

The Age doesn't have a one-liner for a headline like the INQUIRER does. The banner headline is long: "It is a 'shameful episode' (in red) in the history of immigration in Australia. The management of Solon was 'catastrophic' (in red). The unlawful removal of one of our citizens is 'almost unthinkable' (in red).

The small kicker above it says: "The Alvarez Solon verdict: A damning judgement against the Immigration Department."

A small cartoon, similar to those in the INQUIRER, shows a reporter with mike in hand asking a woman, "What qualifications do immigration officials require?" The interviewee, a look-alike of Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone, answers, "A degree of ignorance, a degree of stupidity and a degree of cruelty."

And the online question: "Should Amanda Vanstone resign over Vivian Alvarez Solon's deportation? Cast your vote at theage.com.au."

The Australian media have given this case a lot of mileage. This is not just any human interest story, this has brought to light lapses in immigration law enforcement. This could stoke issues of racism, discrimination and stereotyping.

The investigation of Vivian's case came on the heels of another damning case: the detention of mentally ill Australian resident Cornelia Rau.

Some months ago, the INQUIRER also had Vivian on the front page when it was discovered that she had been wrongfully deported.

Vivian was found wounded and disoriented in a park in the New South Wales town of Lismore. She could have been in an accident, was assaulted or had fallen into the drain. An immigration officer wrongly assumed she was a sex slave and an illegal immigrant despite Vivian's statement that she was an Australian.

In 2001, Vivian, an Australian citizen, was "removed to the Philippines" and placed in a Catholic hospice in Olongapo City, there to heal in loneliness and anonymity. The persistent search of Vivian's former husband Robert Young was a big factor in uncovering the wrong. The Age called him "the lone hero."

Former Victorian police commissioner Neil Comrie of the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman who prepared the investigation report described the case as a "shameful episode" in the history of the immigration department. Here are the findings as summarized by The Age:

- The unlawful removal of Vivian Alvarez Solon was a consequence of systemic failures in the Immigration Department, including inadequate training programs, data base and operating system failures, poor case management and a flawed culture.
- Alvarez Solon's serious physical and mental health problems received insufficient attention.
- The chance to find Alvarez Solon (who had been bundled up and sent to the Philippines) was by then lost because of the limited ability to connect names using Immigration Department data bases.
- Case management was catastrophic, beginning with the assumption Alvarez Solon was a sex slave.
- The fact that in 2003 and 2004 senior (immigration) officials knew an Australian citizen had been removed in 2001 but failed to act is inexcusable.

The Australian government is responding to each of these. It has allotted $50.3 million for College of Immigration, Border Security and Compliance to train staff and enhance skills; $17.9 million for improved immigration detention health services, referral of alternative detention and improved mental health services; introduction of a single-entry client search facility for all Immigration Department IT systems. Plus a few more.

Vivian's case has shaken the establishment.

One of the stories on the case, "A victim, plenty of villains, and a lone hero," by The Age political editor Michelle Grattan, details how Vivian's nightmare began and worsened.

"On July 12 (2001), Immigration officials collected her from the rehabilitation unit; next day she told Immigration she was an Australian citizen and wanted to stay here. But arrangements for her removal proceeded apace, despite her being disabled enough to need help with dressing and hygiene."

The Philippine Embassy, according to the story, was deeply concerned Vivian wasn't well enough to travel and refused to issue a travel document. But Immigration got someone to declare Vivian medically fit. And so this Australian citizen was put on a plane headed for Manila.

Wrote Grattan: "A Philippine consular representative and members of the Philippine community visited (Vivian) on July 18-19 (2001) at the Brisbane motel where she was detained. She told a Filipino social worker she'd been married to a Mr. Young, but the information wasn't passed to Immigration." Why?

The Australian government seems to have done a good investigation. But there should be some lessons for the Philippine side.

Didn't our own immigration bureau and embassy officials have a way of knowing that Vivian was an Australian citizen? Don't we have a way of checking who are and who are not our citizens? Should we allow foreign governments to dump back former Filipino citizens (especially the mentally disabled and infirm who have no way of claiming their rights) on our shores?

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Leadership and followership

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IF YOU EVER HAVE THE CHANCE, RUN OVER TO A Different Bookstore and have them order you a copy of Garry Wills' "Certain Trumpets: The Call of Leaders." It is one of those books you will want to read over and over again, and then pass on to your son (which is what my father did).

The end of the 20th century made many people compile their lists of the century's most influential. When the Philippines Free Press editors decided on declaring Corazon Aquino the Filipino of the Century (a decision I fully agreed with), I had to figure out why. The book of Wills helped. Some extracts from his introduction are instructive, now that our country is experiencing an unprecedented leadership crisis.

In his introduction, Wills writes, "Leadership is always a struggle, often a feud." He asks, "Why after all, should one person do another person's will? The answer that used to be given is simple: the leader is a superior person...Some still subscribe to the notion of leadership."

He adds: "In a democracy, supposedly, the leader does not pronounce God's will to the people but carries out what is decided by the people. Some might object that the leaders is, in that case, mainly a follower—he or she does what the community says when it 'speaks' through elections, through polls, through constituent pressure. Such leaders are not...able to displease their followers. They compromise their principles. They are bribed, if not with money, then with acceptance, or office, or ego satisfaction."

Wills continues, "We seem stuck, then, between two unacceptable alternatives—the leader who dictates to others, or the one who buckles to them. If leaders dictate, by what authority do they take away people's right to direct their own lives? If, on the contrary, they truckle, who needs or respects such weather vanes?"

Wills goes on to point out: "Most of the how-to manuals on leadership assume one or other of these models—or, inconsistently, both. The superior-person model says the leader must become worthy of being followed—more disciplined than others, more committed, better organized. This sends aspiring leaders to the mirror, to strike firm-jawed poses, to cultivate self-confidence and a refusal to hedge."

Or, "the leader is taught to be ingratiating. This is the salesmanship or Dale Carnegie approach—how to win friends and influence people. It treats followers as customers who 'buy' the leader's views after these have been consumer tested and tailored... The followers are, in this literature, a hazy and not very estimable lot—people to be dominated or served, mesmerized or flattered..."

But if one leads, does it mean that to follow a leader is to be a weak person? Wills says no. "We have long lists of the leader's requisites—he or she needs determination, focus, a clear goal, a sense of priorities, and so on. We easily forget the first and all-encompassing need. The leader most needs followers. When those are lacking, the best ideas, the strongest will, the most wonderful smile have no effect...A leader whose qualities do not match those of potential followers is simply irrelevant. The world is not playing his or her game..."

Wills then reminds his readers: "So far I have been discussing just two things—leaders and followers. That is better at least than treatments dealing with only one thing—leaders. But the discussion cannot get far without a third thing—the goal. This is not something added on to the other two. It is the reason for the other two's existence. It is also the equalizer between leader and followers. The followers do not submit to the person of the leader. They join him or her in pursuit of the goal."

And so to the crux of the matter, according to Wills: "It is time for a definition: the leader is one who mobilizes others toward a goal shared by leader and followers. In that brief definition, all these elements are present, and indispensable...Leaders, followers, and goals make up the three equally necessary supports for leadership...The goal must be shared, no matter how many other motives are present that are not shared."

For this reason, he says, "Coercion is not leadership.. Followers cannot be automatons. The totalitarian jailer who drugs a prisoner into confession of a crime has not led him to some shared view of reality.. The leader does not just vaguely affect others. He or she takes others towards the object of their joint quest. That object defines the kind of leadership at issue. Different types of leaders should be distinguished more by their goals than by the personality of the leader (the most common practice). The crisis of mere subsistence on a life craft calls for one type of leader. Democratic stability for another. Revolutionary activity for still a third."

Wills then pleads, "It is one of the major disservices of the 'superman' school of leadership that it suggests a leader can command all situations with the same basic gifts." Thus, he hopes "that readers will keep in mind the different types of followers appropriate to historically conditioned goals. Not many of us will be leaders, and even those who are leaders must also be followers much of the time. This is the crucial role. Followers judge leaders. Only if the leaders pass that test do they have any impact. The potential followers, if their judgment is poor, have judged themselves. If the leader takes his or her followers to the goal, to great achievements, it is because the followers were capable of that kind of response."

His challenge: "Show me your leader, and you have bared your soul. You respond only to one who has set certain goals. You are responsible for that activity, for motion toward those goals. If leadership is mysterious and often scary, so is followership."

How true.

Just like us

YOUNG BLOOD

Matthew Fernandez

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY PARENTS DRAGGED ME TO THE CASCADES CONCERT one Friday night to hear the musicians of their generation play. I went along, thinking that this would be a good chance for me to soak in their culture and maybe try to understand what being young meant for them.

I was in that frame of thought—until we lined up to get in. I tried to look for other young people who liked the music of the Cascade, but I soon realized, with a slight hint of terror, that I was swimming in a sea of really old people. There were old women being cared for by middle-aged men, an old couple here and there, old men wearing jackets, and many others of their kind in different shapes and sizes.

It suddenly felt strange to be attending this concert. I felt like I was not supposed to be there. I had thoughts of getting out of there and tuning in to the music of my generation, the songs of Coldplay and Rivermaya and other bands singing about our teenage angst. If I did, at least I'd have some company, I said to myself.

But my ticket was already paid for, and so I had to go on. I felt alone that night. I knew that when people are alone, they tend to dwell on their own thoughts. I relished the idea of doing so as I settled on my seat.

I bent forward and looked around. The place was slowly being filled, much to my surprise.

The people were quiet for the first few minutes as they patiently waited for the concert to start. When eight o'clock came and the concert didn't begin, people behind me started hooting and hollering. I heard some of those seated closer to me propound their theories about why the concert had not yet begun. Someone behind me said the Cascades were probably having trouble getting one of their members out of his wheelchair. Another said they must have overslept and were still dressing up in their hotel.

My mom was laughing at every joke she heard. I just kept quiet and twiddled my thumbs in anticipation, wondering how good the band really was. If they had managed to do a Grand Reunion tour, I told myself, they probably had something going for them.

The audience began to applaud in the hope of prodding the organizers to start the concert. But they had to do this two more times before the front act opened, and then only after all the commercials had been played.

The front act ended relatively quickly, and the second act came on. I smiled when I heard the band singing Beatles songs. My smile became bigger when the audience got up to join the singing of another Beatles song. They followed the song, word for word, and I was amazed at how they did it. No one sounded off-key and their voices melded into one.

I stayed on my seat, amazed at what what was happening. Then the act was over.

It was the Cascades' turn. With their opening song, the crowd was already showing their appreciation by applauding loudly. When John Gummoe sang and began to swing his hips, the people roared in approval. I cringed at the awkwardness of his dance. He did the same routine for what seemed like the entire evening.

The Cascades sang and I listened. I watched and I realized how important this was to the people there. With every song being sung, except for the new ones they have, I could almost see them being transported to a wonderful place in their past. They were being lifted from the dry bed of their present existence to the seventh heaven of music.

I've seen the same thing happen to those of my own generation. They rip themselves off the reality of their lives with generous doses of music from their MP3 or CD players and sometimes they don't quite come back.

I guess the same thing was happening to the people at the concert. These adults may claim to have different interests, but their generation does resemble ours. A long time ago, they were just like us.

The band reflected this, too. About 35 years after they hit the peak of popularity, I expected them to have forgotten some of the lyrics of their songs and to move a bit slowly now. But the way they sang and moved that night banished these assumptions. They seemed not to have lost the pleasure in doing what they did (especially the hip-swaying) and they radiated their energy to their audience. I could almost see in their eyes their love for their music.

It was evening and they were playing their song. The guitarist strummed and the audience waited for the lyrics. There was the sound of thunder and the pitter-patter of raindrops, and then they began to sing, "Listen to the rhythm of the falling rain... " The crowd again burst out into song and applause, and I could only watch smiling.

The world today serves the young, the group that has done very little to bring the world to where it is now. Old people and our parents deserve to have something to hold on to as the years pass, and music is one of them. Like raindrops falling to the ground, they may not be able to return to the clouds, but at least they have the privilege of looking up to the sky and remembering their past, their memories and the sweetness of them all.

Matthew Fernandez, 18, is a first year BS Psychology student at the Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Hidden hand?

"Time will come when we will disintegrate because we fight one another. But it might turn out that we were pitted against one another by foreigners."

—Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, wondering aloud if the United States has a hand in the ongoing political crisis

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Terror tactics of Marcos dictatorship

ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE OCT. 14 issue of the INQUIRER was the picture of another dispersal of protesters marching toward Mendiola. This after Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes assured members of the House that they will not use a "hammer to kill a fly."

We believe that this latest dispersal is the result of the "calibrated preemptive response" policy of the Arroyo regime. This we believe is not anchored on any legal or moral mooring.

We must remind the Arroyo regime and its police and military forces of Article III, Section 4 of the Constitution: "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble and petition the Government for redress of grievances."

Even BP 880 prohibits the use of water cannons. Section 9-C of the law states that "tear gas, smoke grenades, water cannons, or any similar anti-riot device shall not be used unless the public assembly is attended by actual violence or serious threat of violence, or deliberate destruction of property."

According to the news report, the rally was dispersed even before it could form and march. If there was any "clear and present danger," it obviously came from the police.

Section 12 of BP 880 states that "When the public assembly is held without a permit where a permit is required, the said public assembly may be peacefully dispersed.

By no stretch of the imagination is the use of water cannons a peaceful mode of dispersal of a public assembly.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Clearly, the Arroyo regime and its armed forces are suppressing the people's right to assemble and air their grievances. This is no different from the terror tactics and methods of the Marcos dictatorship.

—EC AMISTAD,
deputy director for operations,
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines-Luzon,
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President's decision to replace Santos good for insurance industry

NEAL H. CRUZ WAS APPARENTLY MISinformed about the record of Benjamin Santos as insurance commissioner, or he would not have defended him so strongly in his column.

Santos' proposal to "reform" the third party liability insurance system for private car owners by organizing a "consortium" of insurers is nothing new. It was tried during the Marcos regime and was found to be a system which bred corruption and victimized the insured of their policy payments. But this time, the consortium that Santos wanted to establish would have been a cartel which would have been beholden to him had it been established.

The compulsory vehicle insurance system was established by Presidential Decree 1465 in June 1978. To handle the business, the decree organized the Philippine Motor Vehicle Liability Pool consisting of insurance companies licensed to do casualty insurance. However, the pool, managed by representatives of the insurance industry, was found later to have engaged in extensive frauds, victimizing both the government and the insured in hundreds of millions of pesos in unpaid taxes and claims.

As a result, PD 1465 was amended by PD 1814 in January 1981, abolishing the insurance pool or consortium. The amended decree limited the compulsory insurance coverage only to third party liability. It transferred the coverage of government vehicles to the Government Service Insurance System, and allowed all private insurance companies individually to issue Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) policies for all other vehicles.

Santos' proposal would have returned the multi-billion-peso CTPL insurance business to the status quo ante, where a group of favored insurance companies would monopolize the CTPL business. This would lead to bigger corruption, apparently in connivance with top insurance commission officials who would chose and possibly control the issuance of CTPL policies.

Many insiders in the insurance commission as well as honest insurance players fear that some insurance officials would personally benefit from such a move. As a former executive of the Philamlife group, Santos is believed to be in a position of conflict of interest as well.

Well-meaning officials and employees of the insurance commission, as well as the public dealing with the commission, welcome President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision dismissing Santos. Besides, Santos is already 66 years old, past the retirement age for government executives.

—JASON MATTHEW VILLANUEVA,
1503 Sawata Area 1,
Maypajo, Caloocan City

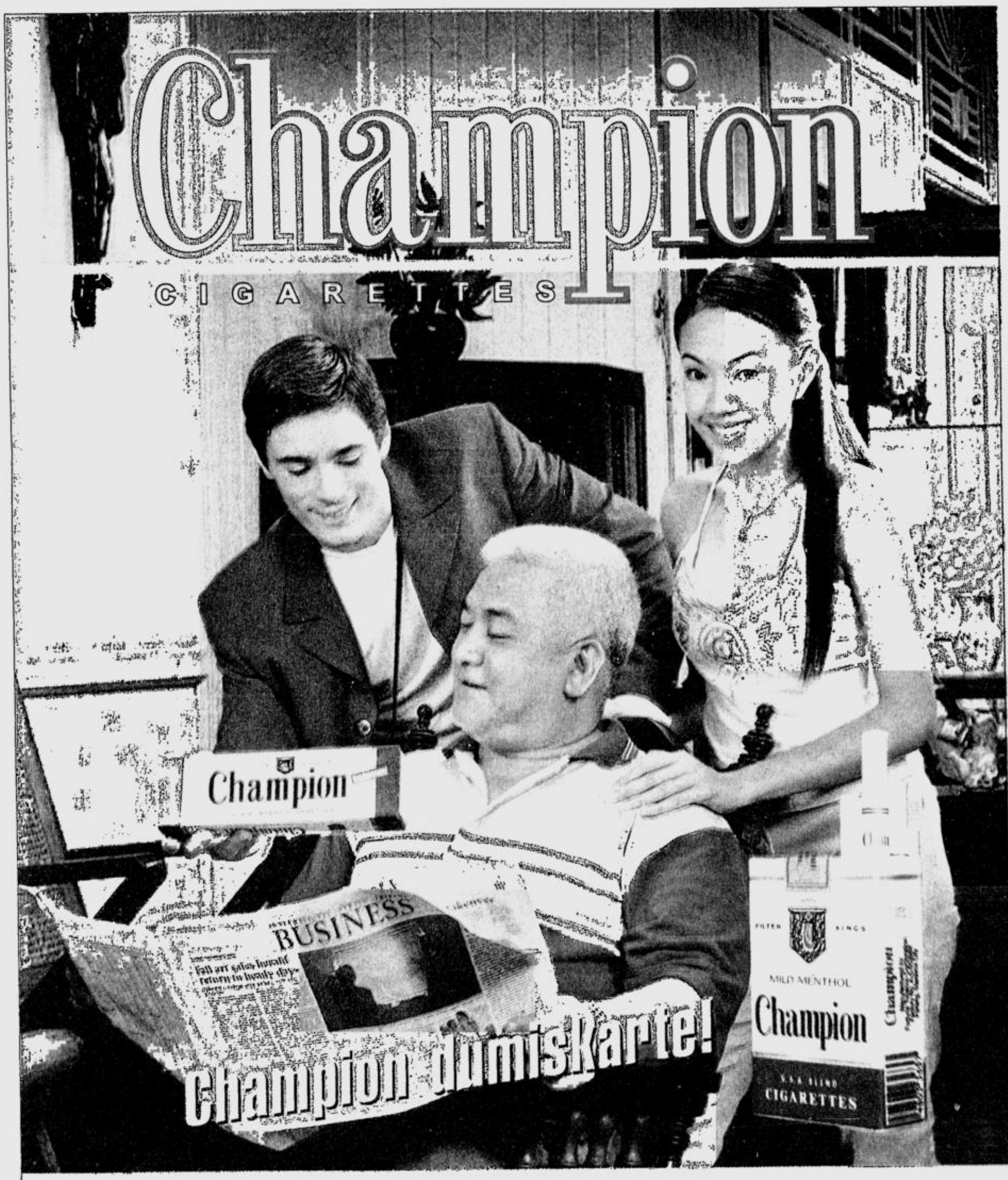
How to be one with cheaters and liars without trying a bit

I THANK CONRADO DE QUIROS FOR his wonderful analysis of the situation hounding our country today. I regret to hear some of our *kababayans* living in the United States who go to great lengths to rationalize cheating and lying because the truth could only open more cans of worm, more problems.

Condoning cheaters in the government, especially when they occupy the highest offices of the land, is like accepting a bribe or paying one. By doing so, we become one of them. We need people who speak and exercise the truth, especially in the government. Sad to say, they are a rare commodity these days in that sphere.

It is said, "Know the truth and the truth shall set you free." Our country can only be free if it seeks the truth. The government knows the cause of the problem, but its officials are not truthful in addressing them. What an awful reality? My heart grieves.

—AJIE ANGGAON,
ajiemher@emirates.net.ae



Government Warning:
Cigarette Smoking is Dangerous to Your Health.

Avoid intermediaries when dealing with SSS

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE LETTER OF Pacita Yanson, which appeared in the Sept. 22 issue of the INQUIRER.

Yanson complained about the delayed release of SSS (Social Security System) guardianship benefit for her grandchildren as a result of the death of her daughter, Marichu Fuentespina. Marichu is the primary beneficiary of SSS member, Vicente Fuentespina.

According to SSS Bacolod, they received the clearance to release the benefit on Aug. 16. The branch issued a special voucher for the release of the checks on Sept. 14. On Sept. 16, the SSS mailed out two checks: one for Crystal Fuentespina, the minor child of Marichu and Vicente, amounting to P2,658.11 under check number 48838593; and for Pacita, amounting to P17,832.96 under check number 48838594.

We take this opportunity to remind our members and their beneficiaries to avoid intermediaries in making benefit claims. The SSS discourages the practice of dealing with third party representatives to prevent fraud.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Views on 'Amerika' leftist propaganda

THE COMMENTARY OF LUIS TEODORO, which appeared in the INQUIRER last Sept. 30, was a typical leftist propaganda material, the kind you see when in the company of his ilk. Teodoro focused on the negative aspects of everyday American life and blew them up 1,000 times to tell people how bad the country was. What he forgot to mention, while he was busy bashing the country, was that his relatives were funneling US greenbacks to the Philippines to prop up its ailing economy.

Teodoro should be careful not to bite the hand that feeds him. Or he may end up watching his dream of a "utopian" economy completely vanish when the Philippines falls into chaos and communism. He was mad at America for stopping the carnage in Yugoslavia? Doesn't he read newspapers? Muslims were being slaughtered en masse before President Bill Clinton decided to step in. Teodoro should look at the facts first before he fires off his word processor, lest he appears like a fool in front of millions of readers!

Yes, poverty exists in America, but not as rampant as he portrayed it. Not as rampant as in the Philippines!

—BERT LAZO,
bertlazo@hotmail.com

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₱100M allotted for ARMM infrastructure

COTABATO CITY—A MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE activity is expected in the few remaining months of the year with the release this week of nearly P100 million for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The amount, according to newly designated Public Works and Highways Regional Secretary Rasul Abpi, is part of the P650 million "seed money" for the ARMM, apart from the standard internal revenue allotment provided to local government units.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan has reportedly been instructed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to monitor closely the fund disbursement in order to ensure its proper use in the implementation of various infrastructure projects.

Abpi considered this year's seed money as "the biggest" since the creation of ARMM in 1989.

"Over P98 million mobilization fund is now available," the new DPWH regional head said, adding that succeeding releases would be made only after the initial amount shall have been properly disbursed as prescribed in the program of work.

He expects the construction boom to generate employment and improve the physical appearance of the region that comprises the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, a known haven of Moro insurgents and bandits.

Ampatuan was optimistic that implementation of the various public works projects would ultimately result into a peaceful and progressive region.

The seed money has been broken down for the following areas: Regional projects, P195 million; provincial projects, P195 million; and municipal projects coursed through the 24 members of the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA), P260 million.

Abpi said each assemblyman has an appropriation of P10.8 million which will be used to fund specific projects approved by Congress.

Past experience showed ARMM in a bad light in the use of infrastructure funds, as a number of projects ended up either "ghost" or substandard in form as indicated in numerous engineering and Commission on Audit reports.

Many projects had been implemented even if they were not the priority needs of the people, some of them destroyed by nature due to its inferior and substandard work.

"We hope these irregularities of the past would not happen in the Ampatuan administration," said Fr. Bert Layson, chair of a non-government organization, Tabang Mindanaw.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

LAST RITES
VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

These cadets are members of PMA Masiglahi Class of 2009, who were formally inducted as members of the Corps of Cadets after surviving seven months of virtual boot camp. But they had to undergo this final test. The traditional recognition rites requires them to lean back as far as they can during a ritual round of acceptance, where upperclassmen require them to recite their senior cadets' names, ranks and even addresses. The more forgetful ones end up standing in this gruelling position for minutes, until senior cadets give them a tug on the shoulders, a clubbing on their chests and a hug to signify their new role as privileged cadets of PMA.

Davao City to spend ₱20M for Asean forum

DAVAO CITY—THE CITY GOVernment of Davao is bracing for the highly-anticipated Asean Tourism Forum (ATF) and has allocated at least P20 million, part of which would be spent to spruce up the city.

Councilor Susabell Reta, chair of the committee on tourism, said the allocation is just too little but relatively enough compared to the "goodies" and attention that the city would be getting from hosting the gathering of around 3,000 guests from member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in January next year.

"Imagine the attention that the city will get because of this. This is the best time for us to sell Davao City," she said.

Guests from Japan, the United States of America and some parts of Europe are also expected to come to the said event.

Tourism officials recently expressed their optimism about the readiness of the city to host the forum, despite the city's proximity to areas which are considered critical and are constantly subjected to military operations.

Reta said they have already sought the participation of all local officials and even the private sector for the dressing-up of the city. She, however, said that the operation is not meant to hide the ugly face of Davao but to highlight instead the beautiful parts.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DENR asked to lift log ban for another 90 days

LUCENA CITY—THE QUEZON Provincial Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Council has appealed to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to suspend the log ban for another 90 days due to the high volume of uncollected logs in Sierra Madre, which, it said, threatens the safety of people living in low-lying areas.

During the council meeting in Real town last week, the group was flooded with reports on the presence of piles of logs along Agos River and creeks in the upper portion of the mountain.

"Based on the assessment of the council, the uncollected logs still pose a serious threat to the safety of low-lying areas, especially Infanta town. The DENR should give the people and the local government more time to address the situation," said Johnny Glorioso, chair of the council's committee on information.

He said the council has adopted a resolution calling the attention of the DENR regional office to again temporarily lift the suspension on the log ban in northern Quezon.

"The appeal is not only based on the exigency of the situation but also in the spirit of the coming Christmas season," Glorioso added.

He said tons of charcoals made from drifted logs were again lined up along the highway waiting for buyers.

"The proceeds from the charcoal could lift the spirit of poor calamity victims who are still feeling the effect of the tragedy last year," he said.

On Aug. 2, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor issued a memorandum that allowed the retrieval and movement of logs and wood products in the provinces of Quezon and Aurora for 60 days as part of the government's disaster preparedness program. The period covered by the order ended on Oct. 2.

Antonio Principe, DENR-Calabarzon regional executive director, did not recommend the extension of the temporary suspension of the log ban, claiming that there were no more drifted logs to be gathered. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Militants to test CPR in Cebu rally vs GMA

CEBU CITY—MILITANT AND cause-oriented groups will converge at Fuente Osmeña Rotunda on Friday to call for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Glemmar Bacusmo, Cebu Coalition Against Gloria (CCAG) spokesperson, said it would also test how Cebu officials would respond to their protest action in the wake of the "calibrated preemptive response" rule imposed by the Arroyo administration.

But he said Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña had assured that the CPR would not be applied here despite an order from Malacañang for local government units to get tough on "unruly mass actions."

Among those who were expected to join were members of vendors and farmers' associations, drivers' group, youth and women sector, and militant groups like Bayan and Sanlakas.

Osmeña earlier said there was no need for him to get tough on protesters and impose a no permit no rally policy because the situation in Cebu was very different from that of Metro Manila.

Lito Vasquez of the Laban ng Masa said all anti-Arroyo groups would converge at Fuente Osmeña Rotunda at 5:30 p.m. on Friday to "pray for Divine intervention."

He said they would pray that the country would be freed from the current political, economic and social crisis and from the regime of "injustice, oppression, lies and untruths, corruption ... and abuse of power and authority."

Among those who would join were members of the militant farmer and fisherfolk organization who wanted President Arroyo out of Malacañang for failing to protect them from harassment by landlords and from losing their means of livelihood.

About 1,200 belonging to Kahugpungan sa Katawhan Kabanikanhan Alang sa Kamatuoran ug Kalamboan sa Nasod would first gather at the Fuente Osmeña Rotunda at 1:30 p.m. that day before marching to Colon Street in downtown Cebu City.

They would then proceed to Malacañang sa Sugbo, the official residence of the President here located at the Aduana Port.

After a short rally there, the group would go back to Fuente Osmeña Rotunda to join the other anti-Arroyo groups for the prayer-rally. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
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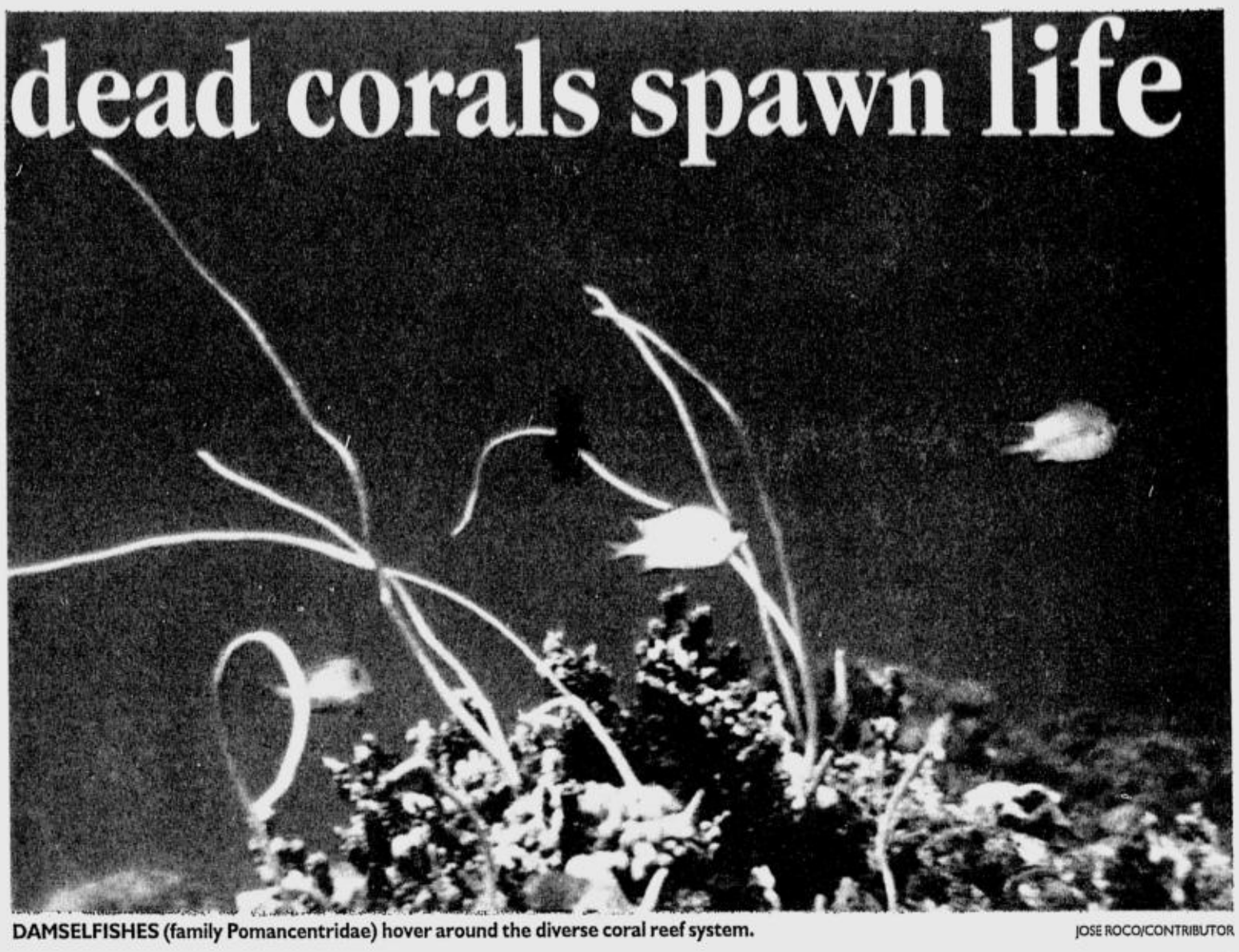
Curangon's dead corals spawn life



DAMSELFISHES (family Pomancentridae) hover around the diverse coral reef system. JOSE ROCO/CONTRIBUTOR

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
Malinao, Albay

NINETY PERCENT OF THE MARINE REEFS IN at least 19 coastal areas of the Bicol region has been considerably destroyed, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. But thanks to the department's community-based resource management program (CBRMP), the town of Malinao in Albay province is not in the watch list of environmental concerns.

An underwater assessment conducted in 2003 by the Bicol Scuba Divers Foundation Inc. (BSDFI) and the DENR Bicol office found that more than half of the 625-hectare Curangon shoal found in Malinao north of Legazpi City has a good coral cover. Still, they are not relaxing.

The shoal found near Malinao's Quinale River that spills into the Lagonoy Gulf in the eastern portion of Mt. Malinao, serves as the spawning and nursery ground for different endangered species of fish, corals and other marine organisms.

With finely crushed dead corals for its bed, the shoal started to attract attention in 2002 but authorities believe it is not too late to prevent the use of cyanide and blast fishing in catching aquarium fishes and collecting corals.

The shoal is home to 39 genera of live hard corals, 91 types of soft corals and 1,431 fishes belonging to 47 species and 20 families, according to Jose Roco, spokesperson of the BSDFI and a member of the assessment team of the Technical Services Staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Bicol office. And these were seen only in the 12 sampling stations that the team assessed.

Protection

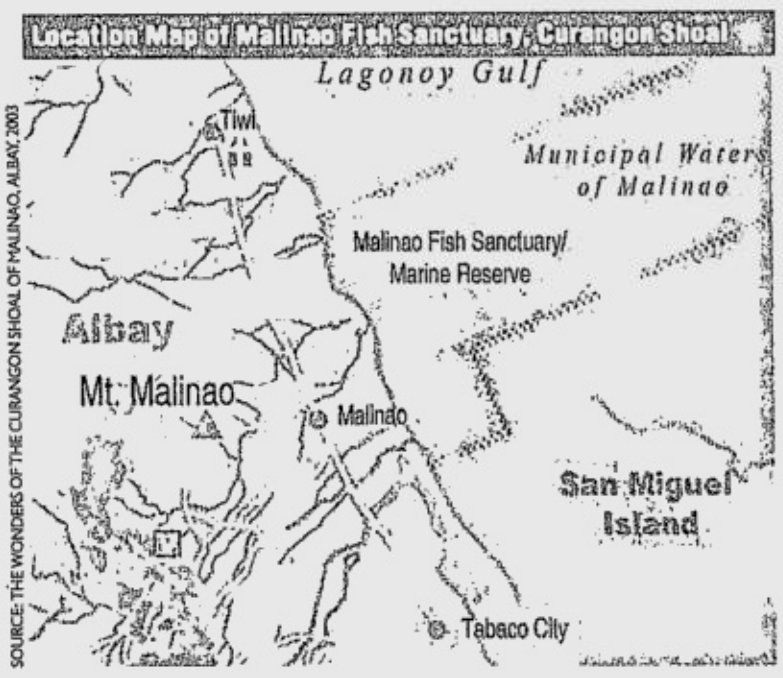
To protect the shoal, concerned government agencies led by the DENR and private citizens established in 2003 a fish sanctuary and marine reserve covering 450 hectares of coral reefs.

Aside from the 450-hectares managed through the CBRMP, the shoal has 28 hectares of shoreland forest and 141 hectares of mangrove forest.

The DENR, local government unit and peoples' organizations in the five coastal villages within the bounds of the Curangon Shoal have joined hands to conserve its ecology.

Most residents living in Malinao rely on the resources in the coral reef. Fishermen used to frequent the area to catch octopus, squid and reef fishes, but now they have more regard to the marine life.

To date, the DENR and the BSDFI are closely monitoring the islands of Cagraray, Rapu-Rapu and San Miguel, and the towns of Sto. Domingo, Manito and Pioduran.



Benefits

The CBRMP has especially benefited the five coastal barangays of Malinao—Jonop, Baybay, Bariw, Balani and Balsa. The officials and residents manage the shoal, with assistance from the local government.

Enhancing natural resource management in Curangon's coral reefs has increased fish yield by more than 50 percent, with enough supply for the sustainability of the shoal's biodiversity.

Lolito Ruben, 43, a farmer and fisherman, said the establishment of the CBRMP has been helpful in supporting the families that depend on the shoal.

Ruben is a member of the Bantay Dagat, which continuously monitors the place alongside the local government and DENR technical team.

"Because of the increased fish yield, there are selected areas, that are parts of the Curangon Shoal where fishermen are allowed to fish."

Municipal agriculturist Norberto Resontoc said their sustained information drive has reduced the gathering, harvesting, collecting and exporting of precious and endangered corals.

It has also stopped the rampant cyanide, blast, and compressor fishing, while the exploitation of endangered species like bivalves, locally known as giant clams, has been controlled.

The growth of the crown-of-thorn sea star, a deadly coral predator responsible for causing tremendous damage to corals, has also been curbed.

More than these, the partnership of government agencies, private sector and local folk has resulted in the establishment of bamboo plantations that help stabilize the major riverbanks and the planting of more mangrove forests in Malinao.

The partnership has also resulted in the strict enforcement of the law, especially with the creation of the Bantay Dagat.

Community tourism

The local government of Malinao has also embarked on high-value crop production, abaca production and weaving, nipa shingle production and bull-crab farming as well as planting of *agoho* and *talisay* trees to make the community a possible eco-tourism area.

Still, Andy Kallos, a community organizer at Barangay Jonop, said support from the local government must be maximized to make the livelihood projects sustainable.

"The place, just like Mt. Malinao, is well-monitored and regulated. Yearly assessment is being done to know if the coral cover is still good or possibly reaching an excellent rating. We are now putting back the original vegetation of our mangrove forests," Malinao Mayor Emily Kare said.

Tourism regional director Maria Ravanilla said that owing to its distinct and diverse marine life, the Curangon Shoal is now on the map of the nation's best diving sites.

VARIOUS species of *Chaetodon*, like the few uncommon *Chaetodon xanthurus*, thrive in the Curangon Shoal. JOSE ROCO/CONTRIBUTOR

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Suspected fake cosmetic surgeons charged

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO WOMEN WHO HAD PERformed cosmetic surgery without a license on unsuspecting clients were arrested in Manila by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) last week.

The suspects were identified as Sonia Aga of 2231 F. Varona, Velasquez, Tondo, Manila, and Catalina Bravo-Garcia of 341 P. Tuazon, Project 4, Quezon City.

Another suspect, Emilia Santos of No. 68-F Torres Bugallon St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila, remains at large.

Investigation conducted by the NBI Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTRAD) headed by lawyer Romulo Asis showed that Santos misrepresented herself as a head nurse in a cosmetic surgery clinic.

With Aga as her assistant, Santos allegedly performed breast augmentation surgery on Julie (not her real name) last June for P10,000.

Santos allegedly injected collagen into the client's left and right breasts during the two sessions conducted in Tondo and Quezon City.

After the surgery, the suspects asked Julie to recommend their services to other patients so she could get a "commission." A friend of Julie's then contacted the suspects and arranged to have her nose and buttocks augmented for P7,000 and P15,000, respectively.

In the last week of July, however, Julie started to feel unbearable pain in her breasts.

She later underwent two surgeries because of an infection.

When Julie learned that her friend was scheduled for surgery, she called her up and advised her not to undergo the procedure, the NBI-AHTRAD report said.

When the suspects reset the surgery for Oct. 13, the NBI arranged an entrapment operation.

The bureau's operatives arrested Royo and Garcia as they prepared for the surgery at the Miramar Hotel on Mabini St., Manila.

Charges of violation of Republic Act 2382 or The Medical Act of 1959 and estafa were filed against the suspects in the Manila City Prosecutor's Office.

Playing possum saved him

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A 19-YEAR-OLD BOY PLAYED dead to save himself during an alleged assault by four neighbors inside a passenger jeepney.

From his hospital bed, Ernesto Rafol, a Parañaque City resident, told the police this story:

"*Nagpatay-patayan lang po ako at nang malayo na po ang jeep saka po ako humingi ng saklolo* (I just pretended I was already dead and when the jeepney had left, I called for help)," Rafol told police.

Jeepney drivers spotted the bloodied victim on C5 Road in Barangay East Rembo, Makati City.

They later alerted the Makati Department of Public Safety (DPS), said Makati Police Department (MPD) homicide section chief Senior Insp. Gary Reyes.

Makati Rescue sent an ambulance that rushed Rafol to Ospital ng Makati in Barangay Pembo.

"The suspects were allegedly forcing him (Rafol) to admit he ∴. stole the [mobile] phone from one of them," said PO1 Lewelie Cristobal, case investigator.

Invitation

Rafol said his neighbors Arnold Doctora, 32; Ronald Ambao, 25; Mark Anthony Malabanan, 18; and his cousin, Juvenal Malabanan, 20, invited him for a drink in Doctora's house at dawn yesterday.

Later, they went for a ride in Doctora's passenger jeepney (plate number TVM 704).

Inside the jeepney, Rafol alleged the men suddenly began threatening him, forcing him to admit to having stolen Doctora's mobile phone last month.

He alleged Juvenal stabbed him, and then dumped him by the roadside. The Parañaque City police later arrested Doctora, Ambao, and Mark Anthony.

Juvenal remains at large.

Rafol positively identified the three suspects who were charged with frustrated murder.

LEAP OF FAITH
A member of the Manila police SWAT team goes through a fitness test, part of a self-improvement program for men and women in the force. REM ZAMORA

Makati eyes economic zone status

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MAKATI OFFICIALS ARE PUSHing for an economic zone status for the city in an effort to make it as attractive to business as Singapore.

"This would need legislation," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, adding that this could mean changes in the city charter or the inclusion of Makati in the list of the country's ecozones.

Binay was interviewed in the sidelines of the inauguration yesterday of Dell Inc.'s recruitment and training facility at the RCBC Plaza.

The mayor said an ecozone status for Makati would mean City Hall would be able to grant incentives to investors like tax holidays and exemptions.

Binay added that a local Investment Code was being drafted in the City Council, and that this was, in fact, already on third reading. "We expect this ordinance to take effect early next year," he said.

The mayor said the code would lay out tax perks for companies engaged in information and communication technology and business process outsourcing, postgraduate schools, tourism facilities and retirement centers.

Further, he said the local government would be reviewing the city's land use program, especially the rules covering an area along Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue where buildings are allowed to rise up to four stories.

"To address the shortage of office spaces, the City Council may adjust the floor area ratio in the land use scheme such that buildings could go as high as six or eight levels," Binay said.

A statement from City Hall explained that the proposed investment code provides for priority investment areas where investors would be exempt from paying business taxes and real property taxes for three to four years.

The city government is also eyeing a 100 percent exemption for the first year of operation of a business.

Cable TV thieves face jail term in Quezon City

By DJ Yap

THINKING OF TAPPING YOUR neighbor's cable television line?

Be warned. If you are in Quezon City, that could mean five months in jail.

Quezon City has approved a tougher measure against illegal cable TV or Internet connections, following complaints from service providers that they were losing millions from the illegal tapping of telecommunication lines.

Authored by City Council majority floor leader Ariel Inton Jr., the "Anti-CATV and Cable Internet Pilferage Ordinance of Quezon City" imposes stiffer fines and penalties for cable TV thieves.

First-time offenders shall be fined P1,000 and/or jailed for a maximum of 30 days.

Second-time offenders shall be fined P3,000 and/or jailed for a maximum of three months, according to the ordinance.

A subsequent offense means a fine of P5,000 and/or imprisonment for a maximum of five months.

If the offense is committed by a corporation, partnership or other juridical entities, the chief executive officer, president, general manager, or officer-in-charge shall be held liable.

If the offender is a foreigner, he/she shall immediately be deported after serving out his sentence.

In a statement, Inton said the local government should protect CATV and Internet providers as part of Quezon City's efforts to strengthen local industries.

He said the measure would lead to a favorable business climate for the cable TV and Internet sector, which could only be advantageous to the city as good business meant increased tax revenues.

METROBRIEFS

Coffee plant closed

CITING complaints from residents, the Pasig City government has ordered the closure of a coffee plant run by the Universal Robina Corp. in Barangay Rosario the other day. "Some residents complained of dizziness and difficulty in breathing, while others complained of asthma attacks because of prolonged exposure to the stench from the factory," said city environment and natural resources office chief Raquel Naciongayo. After the plant was told to resort to remedial measures last month, the company made an effort to control the odor, but failed to contain it at tolerable levels. Naciongayo said the closure order would be lifted only when the stench is considerably reduced to "acceptable" levels. The coffee plant, which employs about 300 employees, manufactures the brands Great Taste and Blend 45.
Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

P50 cab flag down?

PUBLIC transport groups are considering a new round of fare increases once fuel prices go up in Nov. 1 with the implementation of the value-added tax (VAT). A taxi group is planning to ask the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for P5 more in the flag down on top of its pending P15 increase. From the current P30 flag down, this would bring the new rate to P50. Some jeepney groups said they may press for a P1.50 hike in minimum fare. Airlines and shipping firms yesterday said they would also automatically collect the 10 percent VAT on Nov. 1. Philippine Airlines, Air Philippines Corp., Cebu Air Pacific and other local airlines said they would start adding a 10 percent VAT on the price of tickets for domestic trips by Nov. 1. Officials of shipping firms said they had no choice but to pass on the cost of the VAT to consumers. LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista, however, said her agency would not accept any new fare hike petition from jeeps or buses since the fare increases that had been granted already covered the increased cost of fuel due to the 10 percent VAT.
Clarissa S. Batino

Goodbye to dumps

ILLEGAL dumps used by Valenzuela City residents for more than a decade have been cleared of garbage, according to Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian. The mayor made the announcement when he commended members of the city's Waste Management Office and Task Force Disiplina for their success in clearing the city's several dumps. "It is the fourth illegal dump cleared by the WMO and the Task Force since their creation in April," Gatchalian said. According to the mayor, another clearing operation would be conducted on Sunday in San Miguel, Malinta as part of their continuing program to rid the city of illegal dumps.
Nancy C. Carvajal

Lessons learned from past rallies

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN rights (CHR) says that video footage of last Friday's water dispersal of a prayer rally shows that agitators and provocateurs were present among the ranks of the rallyists.

The agitators were on the fourth line and pushing those in front.

The front line was composed of, among other people, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Sen. Jamby Madrigal, and Rep. Satur Ocampo.

While they pushed and shoved those in the front row, the agitators were heard shouting, "*Sige, sugod na, sugod na* (Go on, break through, break through)!"

The antiriot police panicked and that was when the trouble started.

* * *

The CHR fielded camera-wielding observers during the prayer rally.

This indicates that the CHR foresaw trouble because some of the participants were bent on going to the San Beda College chapel located in a "no-rally zone."

If the CHR foresaw trouble, why didn't the Manila Police District (MPD) also anticipate trouble?

In fact, while a group of rally participants, led by Guingona et. al., was on its way to San Beda College, CHR Commissioner Wilhelm "Beebong" Soriano was burning the lines with Director Gen. Art Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

Soriano was on top of the situation as he was receiving reports from CHR fieldmen.

The CHR commissioner urged the PNP to allow the prayer-rally participants to go on unhampered as they only numbered less than 100 and were, therefore, "containable."

Lomibao said he would pass the request to Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), who would then pass it on to Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, MPD chief.

It was, therefore, Bulaong's fault.

If Bulaong were at the rally site, things would have turned out differently.

He should have taken a lesson from retired Brig. Gen. Narciso Cabrera, Manila Police chief during the last days of President Marcos.

Cabrera personally led his men in confronting anti-Marcos demonstrators who were led by well-known opposition figures at the time.

Narcing Cabrera held dialogues with demo leaders.

The result was that no trouble erupted when Cabrera was present at the rally site.

(I would like to apologize to Gen. Cabrera for making the mistake of saying in the last column he was relieved as WPD chief in the aftermath of the Mendiola massacre during President Cory Aquino's term. Cabrera was no longer WPD chief when the massacre took place).

* * *

The police should never take sides in a dispute that is yet to be decided by the courts.

But police in Subic, Zambales, led by Supt. Roger Aspe, did just that when they took sides in a family feud.

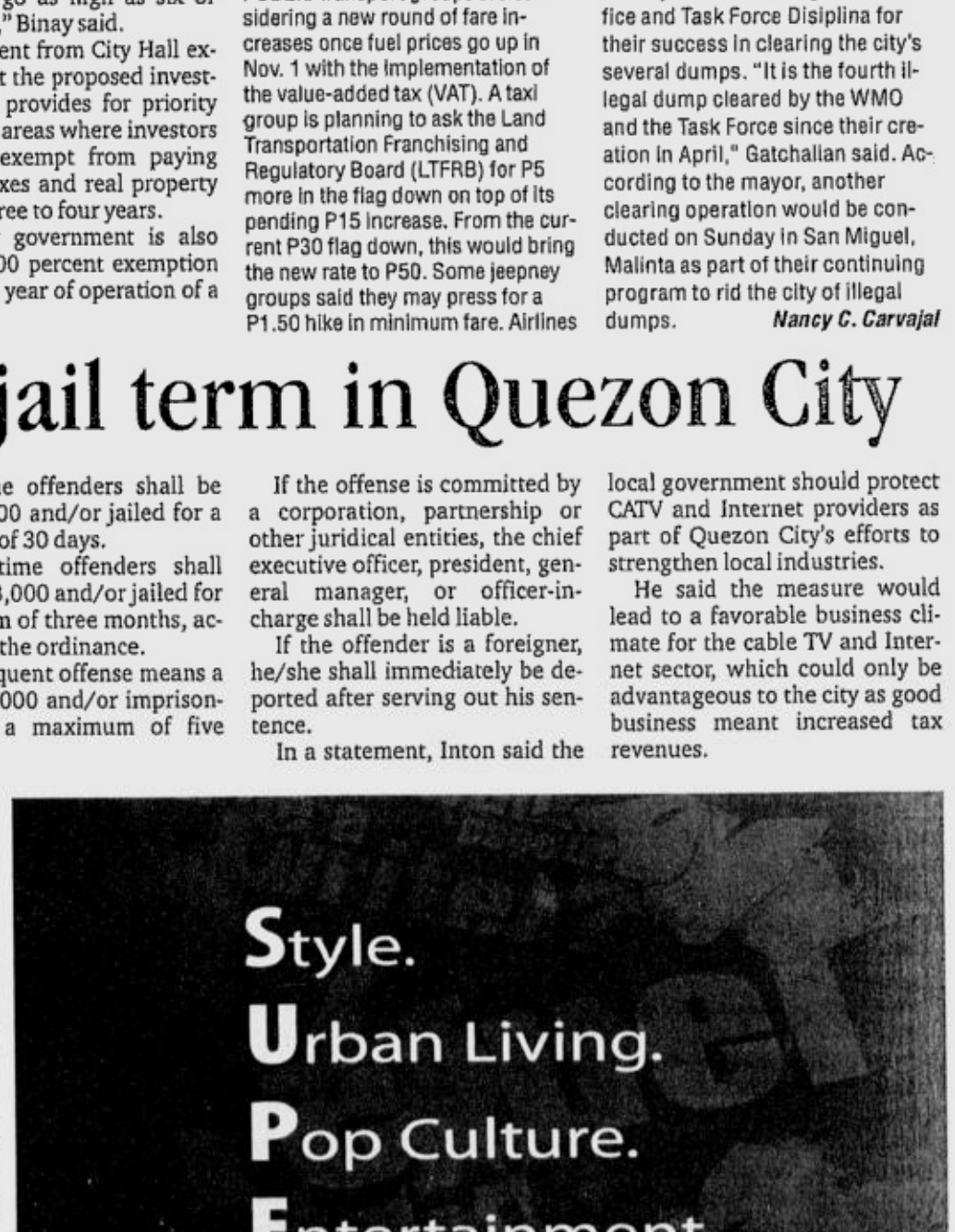
Aspe and his men raided the Golden Star Funeral Homes, which is the subject of a dispute among members of the Parungao family, and arrested its security guards.

They then turned the funeral parlor over to a group in the family, to the detriment of the other contending party.

Aspe did that without any court order.

He sided with one of the contending parties for reasons only he knew.

Aspe should be punished for that.



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Health Leaders on Osteoporosis Awareness

October has been designated as Osteoporosis month. Osteoporosis is a serious disease which people have taken for granted thinking it only hits the elderly. Dubbed as the "silent epidemic," osteoporosis has no symptoms. It often goes undiagnosed and ignored until a fracture occurs. Yet osteoporosis can be very debilitating and, at it's worst, deadly.

Worldwide osteoporosis numbers are growing at an alarming rate. Approximately 1.6 million hip fractures occur each year and by 2050 could reach 4.5 to 6.3 million. One third of the patients with hip fracture die of complications and one third are unable to move without assistance, increasing cost and need of care. Incredibly, osteoporosis will soon overtake heart disease as the single biggest global health threat. In the Philippines, it was estimated that 60% of all female admissions over 50 in a major Manila hospital specializing in bone ailments are due to osteoporotic fractures.

We encourage every Filipino to start taking their bone health seriously and take steps that will promote healthy, strong bones.

We salute New Zealand Milk Philippines for being at the forefront of research and consumer education on bone health. Its continuous commitment to building healthier and stronger bones is essential to building healthier, fuller and longer lives for all of us.

Dr. Florante P. Gonzaga, M.D.
President
Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Mario V. Capanzana, Ph.D.
Director
Food & Nutrition Research Institute

Dr. Rodolfo F. Florentino, M.D., Ph.D.
Adviser
Philippine Association of Nutrition

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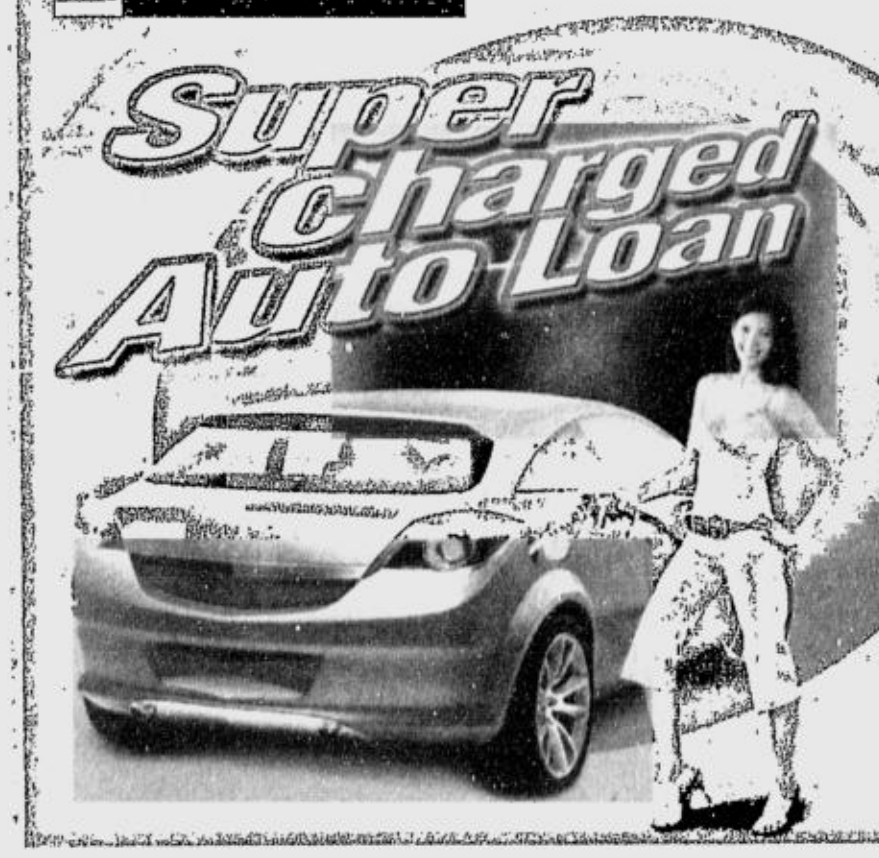

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

2 insiders tagged in Benitez case

Archer's father claims duo helped secure his son's eligibility papers

By Musong R. Castillo

A LIAISON OFFICER AND A FORMER MEMBER OF THE La Salle basketball squad's coaching staff helped Green Archer Mark Benitez secure his eligibility papers with the Department of Education.

The disclosure came from no less than the player's father himself, Mesh Benitez, according to a very reliable INQUIRER source who gained access to what transpired during the closed-door meeting of a four-man La Salle panel yesterday.

But the INQUIRER is withholding the identity of the two men pending the result of the La Salle inquiry.

The source added that one of the two team officials was present during the hearing, but was asked by Br. Bobby Casingal, FSC, the head of the office of Sports Development of De La Salle University, to leave the room before the start of the session.

La Salle came out with a statement late Tuesday night admitting that it indeed fielded two ineligible players in its 2004 championship run.

The university has not disclosed the names of the cagers, but numerous published reports have identified them as Benitez and point guard Tim Gatchalian.

Gatchalian has also been summoned to air his side on the controversy.

Gatchalian, who suited up for the Archers in 2003 along with Benitez, received his invitation yesterday.

In another development, Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo; the DepEd officer-in-charge, said they are not discounting the possibility that the fake documents were a result of an "inside job" perpetrated by National Educa-

TWO/ A20

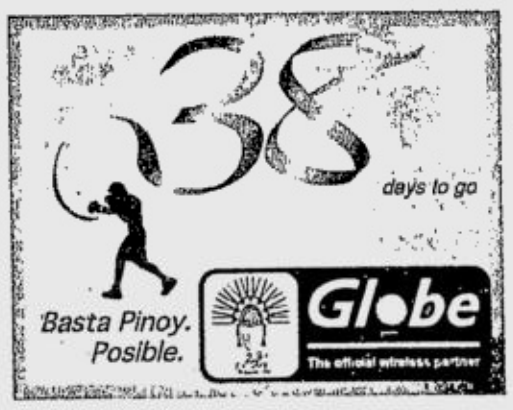
3 more Fil-Ams join SEAG swim team

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THREE NEWLY DISCOVERED FIL-Americans, including a 17-year-old girl wonder who has surpassed at least three national records, will beef up the 28-man Philippine swimming squad to next month's Southeast Asian Games here.

Erica Totten, a standout from the Bolles School in Florida, has provided a lot of promise for the team, whose oldest member is 23-year-old Ma. Lizza Danila, a SEAG triple silver medalist.

Totten's credentials include a 200-meter freestyle mark of two minutes and 6.89 seconds, which is better than the RP record of 2:07 by Akiko Thomson. Her time of 1:04.41 in the 100 butterfly is better than Joy Ong's RP mark of 1.05.01 and her 400m individual medley record of 5:07.26 is faster than the RP record of 5:07.47 by Althea Lim.



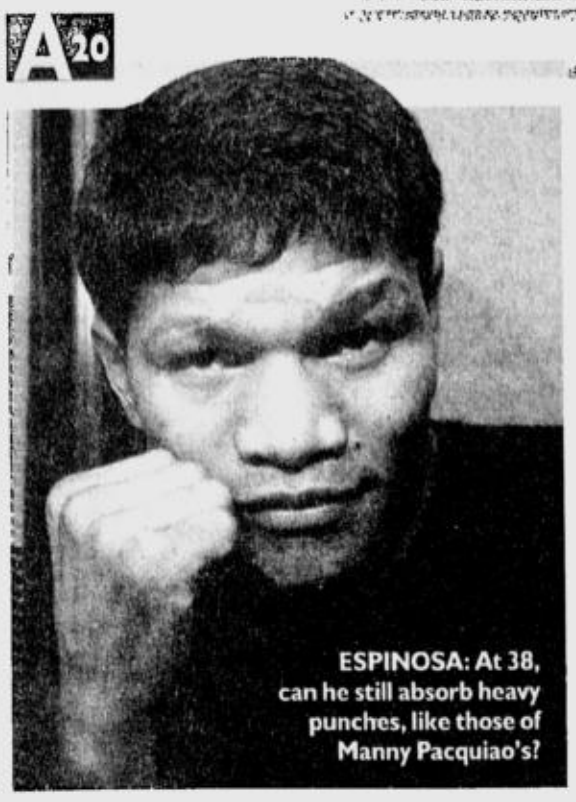
She's expected to stir things up for the RP drive along with Olympians Jaclyn Pangilinan, JB Walsh, Miguel Molina and Miguel Mendoza, who were hands-down choices for the SEAG roster.

Totten trained under Jeff Popple, who helped Mendoza prepare for the Vietnam SEAG where he captured the 1,500m free gold medal.

The other new Fil-Am recruits are Mikhail Reyes and Robert Walsh from the MAC Team in Virginia and Irvine Novo Aquatics in California, respectively. They are likely to join the men's IM events to support Molina.

The men's team is also made up of Olympian Timmy Chua, Kendrick Uy, Lambert Guiriba, Evan Grabador, Bonus Bordado, Ryan Arabejo, Benjamin Uy, Ernest Dee, Jan Michael Chiu, Mark Tano, Ferdinand Frigillana and Michaelmars Danila.

With Pangilinan and Danila at the helm, the women's squad is also composed of 13-year-old Denjylie Cordero, Heidi Gem Ong, Marichi Gandionco, Luica Dacanay, Chrizel Lagunday, Nikki Santiago and Bianca Uy.



ESPINOSA: At 38, can he still absorb heavy punches, like those of Manny Pacquiao's?

Pacquiao agrees to spar with Espinosa

By Recah Trinidad

DESPITE INITIAL APPREHENSIONS, MANNY PACquiao yesterday reconsidered and welcomed the offer for him to spar with former world champion Luisito Espinosa in preparation for the monumental rematch against Mexico's Erik Morales in January.

"Makakatulong din siya (He could be of help)," Pacquiao told international promoter-manager Rex "Wakee" Salud in Bacolod City where the two were guests yesterday.

Salud had said he was worried Espinosa, who has been disallowed to fight by the California State Boxing Commission following dismal losses, could not stand up to the expected beating during sparring with Pacquiao.

But when pressed by this reporter to get a firm reply from Pacquiao, Salud got an affirmative answer.

This reporter heard Pacquiao finally agreeing to Espinosa as a sparmate over Salud's cellphone.

Pacquiao, who said he was willing to give Espinosa financial help, did not clarify how the proposed sparring could be carried out considering their discrepancy in age and power.

Pacquiao had himself been quoted as saying Espinosa could get unduly hurt during sparring.

With Pacquiao suddenly giving the nod to the over-the-hill, 38-year-old Espinosa, the development comes as another coup for boxing expert Hermie Rivera.

Rivera, who discovered and developed Espinosa into a world champ, has been batting for Espinosa to be part of Pacquiao's stable of sparmates.

Rivera sent the following text message prior to Pacquiao's decision yesterday: "It would do well for Manny to look back at the performance of his previous sparmates when he took on the likes of Marquez and Morales, whereby his chosen ones acted like willing turds—thus letting Pacquiao suffer a rare loss and an undeserved draw."

Told that majority in local boxing circles had also feared for Espinosa after he was offered as a sparmate for the hard-hitting Pacquiao, Rivera made this assurance: "I would be the last to allow Luisito to spar with the prodigious Pacman if Lindol [Espinosa] can't hack it."

Rivera stressed that sparring is an entirely different art from actual ring combat. He added that Espinosa is basically of the same height as Morales and could also lend Pacquiao additional inputs.

Rivera has criticized this reporter for expressing similar fears voiced by other concerned parties that Espinosa may no longer be of full value to Team Pacquiao as a sparmate.

There are plans for Espinosa, nicknamed Lindol (Earthquake) for his sensational first-round world bantamweight title win in Bangkok in 1989, to come home and grace the "Fight for Love" card for his benefit at the San Andres Civic and Sports Arena on Oct. 29.

Aces up with Tee, crush Kings by 30

By June Navarro

WITH TEE MCCLARY ON THE FLOOR, ANOTHER ENDGAME COLLAPSE FOR the Alaska Aces was simply out of the question.

McClary was the glue that kept the Aces together as they routed the Barangay Ginebra Kings, 102-72, in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Despite nursing an injured foot, McClary pumped in 32 points and grabbed 17 rebounds as the Aces bounced back mightily after squandering a 29-point lead in an overtime defeat to Purefoods Chunkee.

"He's (McClary) awesome," said Alaska coach Tim Cone. "The funny thing about Tee was he didn't practice the entire week and he just killed everybody out there."

McClary aggravated an ailing right foot against the Giants which turned out to be a second-degree sprain. When McClary left early in the fourth quarter, the Giants chopped away at the deficit and repulsed the Aces in the extension period.

This time, McClary refused to abandon the Aces, who recovered from back-to-back losses for a 2-2 card.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk 'N Text
7:25 p.m.—Alaska vs Air21
GAME SATURDAY
(Cagayan De Oro)
4:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Barangay Ginebra

"It doesn't matter if he's in pain. He just plays hard all the time and that's what I like about him," said Cone, whose Aces ripped the game wide open in the second frame, 51-32, after riding on McClary's 21 points at halftime.

Tony Dela Cruz also had a superb night with 16 points and 10 rebounds while Jeffrey Cariaso and Brandon Cablay added 13 and 10 points apiece. Cone also praised Willy Wilson, who cushioned the absence of playmaker Mike Cortez.

"Without Mike, Willy had done a tremendous job," said Cone. "Willy's underrated but he's a hard worker and he showed it tonight."

Cortez came in plainclothes after suffering from MCL on his right knee which would take at least two weeks to heal.

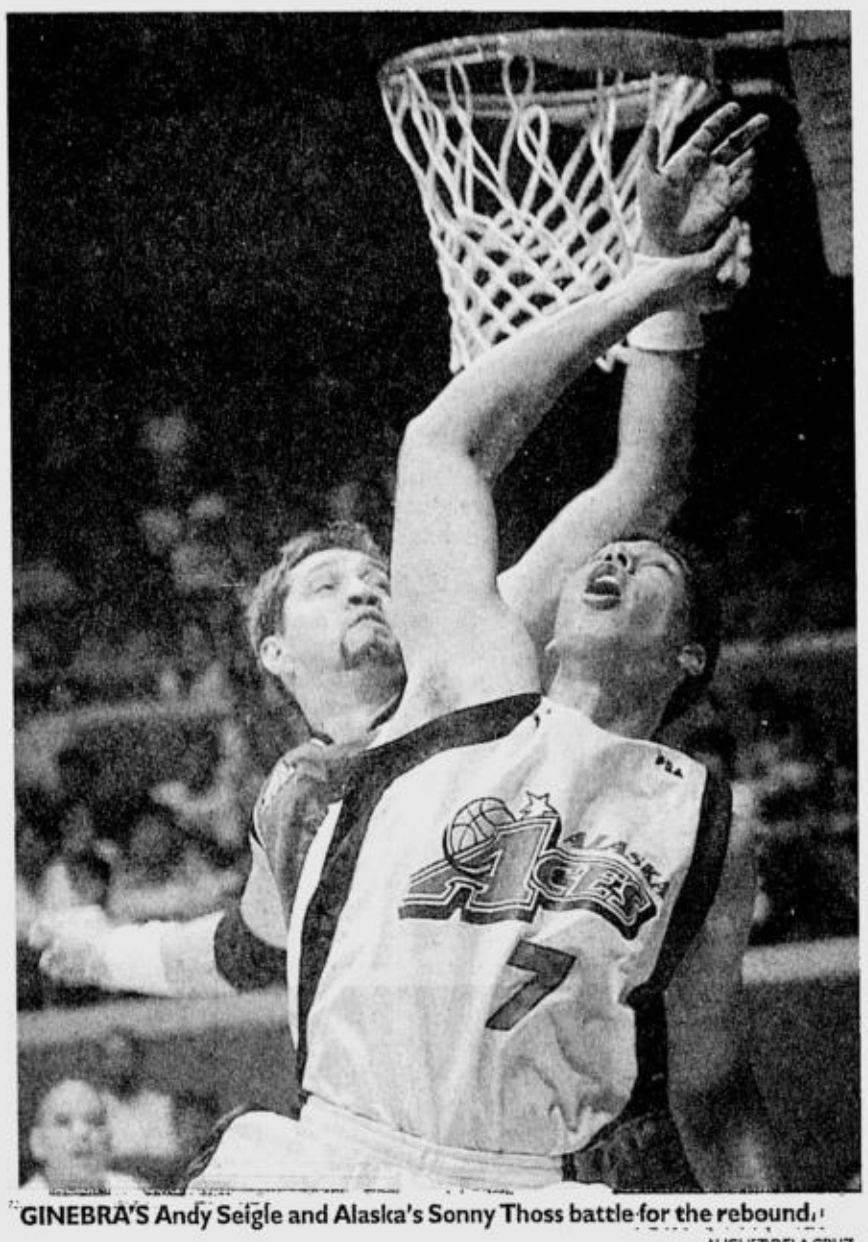
Sean Lampley finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds but was practically a non-factor in the latter half.

The scores:

ALASKA 102—McClary 32, Dela Cruz 16, Cariaso 13, Cablay 10, Wilson 8, Allado 8, Alvarez 6, Thoss 5, Hugnatan 4, Hawkins 0, Calpito 0.

GINEBRA 72—Lampley 17, Helterbrand 16, Caguioa 15, Santos 8, Holper 4, Sotto 4, Adducul 4, Noble 2, Seigle 0, Macapagal 0, Ferreria 0, Salvacion 0, Dimaunahan 0.

Quarters: 26-14, 51-32, 75-50, 102-72.



GINEBRA'S Andy Seigle and Alaska's Sonny Thoss battle for the rebound.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Two insiders tagged in Benitez case

BENITEZ

tional Testing and Research Center (NETRC) personnel who may be involved in the issuance of the spurious documents.

The official added that DepEd will furnish the UAAP board a copy of its findings once it finishes its probe.

The UAAP board will tackle the case in a meeting set in the third week of November.

"We will study the reports and we will work from there," said league president Fr. Max Rendon, CM, of Adamson University, this year's UAAP host. "We still have plenty of time. Besides, the implementation of the sanction is still next year."

"People are already accusing us of being indifferent to the case, but we're not," Rendon added. "They (La Salle) are the ones who revealed this, so the burden of proof is on them."

Both Benitez and Gatchalian failed to complete their high school senior year requirements at Jose Rizal University and were asked to take the Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR) in lieu of a high school diploma to be eligible for college.

The source said that Benitez explained in detail the chronology of events which allowed him to gain entry into the school and into the men's basketball team. . .

While Benitez reportedly stopped attending classes in JRU on January 2002, a different source said Gatchalian only failed to complete a minor subject—Speech—in his senior year.

Gatchalian and Benitez were both playing for the RP Youth team at that time and Gatchalian's efforts to complete the course during the summer ran in conflict with the team's practices. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and Jasmine W. Payo*

WW ladies stay ahead of S'woods

BAGUIO CITY—WACK WACK KEPT MANILA Southwoods at bay with yet another display of balanced scoring, staying infront by 11 points in Group 1 after the penultimate round yesterday of the 3rd Asian Ladies Team championship at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

Bing Liboro and Liza Lopez contributed 44s and Stephanie Yu accounted for 42 of Wack Wack's 129 for the day for a 36-hole aggregate of 267, moving the Mandaluyong team closer to an upset of the defending champion Southwoods squad. Vicky Farrales did not count with a 24.

National pool mainstay Carmelette Villaroman exploded with 53 points, just one over the rolling par-69 course, but her Southwoods teammates couldn't give her the needed support to overhaul Wack Wack's hefty 15-point lead on opening day.

The three other Championship division teams were too far behind with only a round left in the event presented by Smart Communications, with CJH Golf Club, CJH Development Corp., CJH Manor Hotel and Le Chef as the other sponsors.

Riviera stayed in third place, 21 points adrift, despite another 50-point effort by jungolfer Cyna Marie Rodriguez. Villamor was at 232 and Phoenix at 217.

Forest Hills-Nicklaus kept a nine-point edge over Royal Northwoods in Group 2 while Villamor 2 streaked to a 21-point lead in Group 3.

Grace Atienza (42), Violy Pegels (38) and Christine Lava (35) sparked Forest-Nicklaus to a 234 total for two days, with Royal Northwoods at 225 and Valley a far third at 209. Villamor, which drew scoring from Hong Mei Fu (39), Ting Yupangco (38) and Nancy Chia (25), led Forest Hills-Palmer, 203-182.

Villaroman moved up by three over Rodriguez in their battle for the individual title, 103-100. Liboro paced Violy Pegels by 10 in Group 2 and Northwoods' Joy Sevilla emerged the new leader in Group 3, six up on Hong of Villamor.

The standings:

GROUP 1—267 Wack Wack, 256 Manila Southwoods-Masters, 236 Riviera, 232 Villamor, 217 Phoenix.

GROUP 2—234 Forest Hills-Nicklaus, 225 Royal Northwoods, 209 Valley, 201 BCC, 177 Camp John Hay

GROUP 3—203 Villamor, 182 Forest Hills-Palmer, 178 Manila Southwoods-Legends, 174 Brewyard, 139 CJH

Tierro, Arcilla still on course for title clash

NATIONAL TEAM MAINSTAYS PATRICK JOHN Tierro and Johnny Arcilla waylaid separate rivals yesterday to lead six other seeds into the quarterfinals of the Olivarez Open Tennis Championships at the Olivarez Tennis Center in Sucat, Parañaque City.

Tierro, the top seed, whitewashed lucky loser Raffy Santiago, 6-0, 6-0, for his second straight love match, while Arcilla, seeded second, thumped Arvin Ruel, 6-0, 6-3.

Joining the duo in the last eight were third seed Rolando Ruel Jr., No. 4 Chiemel Mantua, fifth seed Adelo Abadia, sixth seed Elbert Anasta, No. 7 Alexander Lazaro and No. 8 Jessie Lapore.

Ruel outplayed Gino Bautista, 6-2, 6-4, to arrange a date with Lazaro, who struggled past Pablo Olivarez II, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.

THROUGH: Johnny Arcilla yields only three games to Arvin Ruel. EDWIN BACASMAS

Mantua tripped Nico Riego de Dios, 6-4, 6-3, to forge a clash with Anasta, who bumped off Yannick Guba, 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1.

Abadia downed Miguel Narvaez, 6-1, 6-2, to set up a match with Tierro, while Lapore beat Gilbert Estrada 6-3, 6-0, and will face Arcilla today.

Women's last-16 results: Aileen Rogan d. Denise Mallari, 6-0, 6-0; Bien Zoleta d. Anna Songco, 6-0, 6-2; Jessica Agra d. Catherine Flores, 6-4, 6-1; Michelle Panis d. Crestita Guiosino, 6-2, 6-1; Bambi Zoleta d. Michelle Pang, by default; Alyssa Labay d. Sherry Rose Ong, 6-4, 6-3; Karen Reyes d. Roma Agsalud, 6-1, 6-3.

SPORTSWATCH

Valle downs Peña in RP 9-ball opener

GANDY VALLE OPENED his campaign in the Philippine 9-Ball Open with a 9-6 victory over Jerome Peña yesterday at the Robinsons Galleria Trade Hall. "I was hitting well from the start, so I played aggressively," said Valle in Filipino. After winning the lag, the reigning Singapore leg champion of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour took the first two racks of the alternate break affair and went on to take a 4-1 lead. In other opening round matches, Rodolfo Luat drubbed Roberto Gomez, 9-5; Benson Palce scalped Richard Aguilar, 9-5; Elvis Perez downed Roberto Dy, 9-6; Dennis Orcullo bested Florencio Banar, 9-5, and Luis Saberdo defeated Aladdin Duloa, 9-7. Meanwhile, Jeffrey "Jeff Bata" De Luna won by forfeiture over Marlon Manalo, who failed to book a flight back from the United States. Manalo, winless in pool competitions at home but a semifinalist in the last world pool championship, informed event manager Eric Centeno of his predicament Tuesday night.

Nasac Chairman's Golf Cup tourney set

THE NATIONAL Social Action Council (Nasac) will hold the second Nasac Chairman's Golf Cup tournament on Nov. 4 at the Camp Aguinaldo course in Quezon City. The 18-hole tournament in honor of Nasac chair Philip Ella Juico carries an apt theme: "Beating the Odds—The Nasac Way." Tee-off time is 12 noon. Juico is a former chair of the Philippine Sports Commission chair and dean of the De La Salle University Graduate School of Business. The event aims to raise funds for the Nasac 10th Trisectorial Congress slated in February next year. For inquiries, call 400-9745 or 522-5953.

NCA 7-stag championship round today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-stag derby kicks off tonight at the Makati Coliseum with three entries expected to figure in the battle for top honors. Pulling off three wins each in Tuesday's elimination round are Rep. Ronnie Puno (Magic Wing Sundance), the tandem of Boy de Roca and Rep. Iggy Arroyo (Kampi Ni Iggy at Butch) and the combined fighters of hotelier Biboy Enriquez and Rep. Jing Paras (McKinley Firebird). Tonight's hosts are Patrick Antonio, Benjie Lim, Enriquez and Pol Estrellado. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

Bakbakan elims get going at Big Dome

THE ANNUAL Bakbakan National 9-Stag Derby gets under way at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum with the first batch of 50 participants from Luzon seeing action in the 75-fight schedule. The derby, participated in by gamefowl breeders from all over the country, drew 600 breeders affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders last year. The first day of eliminations will feature breeder-members from the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association.Two more qualifying rounds are scheduled on Oct. 24 and Nov. 10. For inquiries, call 926-7808 or 924-5072.

NET RESULT: Phinma-ITF junior champion Miguel Narvaez (left) and semifinalist Michael Basco with Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy head coach Manny Tecson (third from left) and Wilson Sports Inc. sales manager Gerry Tan. MSTA aces Narvaez and Basco enjoy the backing of Wilson.

Run clubs back Subic Marathon

THE NEWLY FORMED RUNNERS Confederation of the Phils. Inc., composed of different running clubs and race organizers, has thrown its support behind the 1st National Subic Marathon set Oct. 23 inside the Subic Bay Freeport.

The organization, which succeeded the now inactive Association of Road Race Organizers (Arro), was formed recently in a meeting hosted by police Chief Supt. Sam Tucay, OIC of the PNP Values and Leadership School and primary mover of the Subic event.

The RCPI's newly elected officials are businessman Bong Hipolito of Runnex, president; GMA-7 Kapuso Fun Run organizer Adlai Asturiano, vice president; Miriam Cruz, San Miguel Running Club, secretary; and Direct Link Runners Club's Pablo Cay, treasurer.

Houston Astros try again

ST. LOUIS—ALBERT PUJOLS EQUATED his mammoth game-deciding homer's effect on the Houston crowd to a couch potato punching the mute button.

Whether it's an NL championship series-turning moment, only time will tell.

And as Pujols said several times Tuesday, the day before Game 6, the St. Louis Cardinals still trail the series 3-2 and face two more must-win games to make it to the World Series for the second straight season.

"It's the best hit of my career," Pujols said. "But it's what you do tomorrow. I don't look at the past, I don't even want to talk anymore about it."

It's also one of the most dramatic homers in recent Cardinals history, perhaps eclipsing Ozzie Smith's dramatic shot off Tom Niedenfuer in the 1985 playoffs against the Dodgers. Smith's homer came in a tie game and Pujols' came with a 100-win season down to its final out.

The Cardinals have come to expect such nonchalance from Pujols, a star almost from his first day in the major leagues five seasons ago. He was fifth in the order in the pivotal ninth inning of a game St. Louis need to win to send the series back home, and teammates were doing the math.

David Eckstein started the two-out rally when he scratched out a single against Astros closer Brad Lidge, then Jim Edmonds walked. Pujols did the rest.

"Eckstein got a big hit, Jimmy got a big walk and they pay Albert the money they pay him to do what he did," Cardinals reliever Ray King said.

CATCHER Yadier Molina (left), Albert Pujols and the rest of the St. Louis Cardinals are looking for one more miracle. REUTERS

Pujols is among the leading MVP candidates this year after finishing second in batting (.330) while hitting 41 homers and driving in 117 runs and leading the majors with 129 runs. It's typical production from the first player in major league history to hit 30 homers in his first five seasons, the third-youngest player to reach 200 homers, the fourth player to begin his career with five straight 100-RBI seasons.

"He's obviously the best I've ever played with," Game 6 starter Mark Mulder said. "I was with (Jason) Giambi the year he won the MVP, but what Albert does day in and day out is just so impressive."

Entering Game 6, Pujols is batting .447 the last two postseasons against the Astros, with six homers and 15 RBIs. *AP*

Mikola set to join last 2 AF3 legs

ASIAN FORMULA THREE SERIES LEADER Ananda Mikola is foregoing the Australian leg of the A1 Grand Prix so he could race in the last two rounds and secure the AF3 title at the Batangas Racing Circuit on Nov. 5-6.

Filipino Tyson Sy frustrated the Indon's bid to clinch the AF3 overall title outright by scoring a breakthrough golden double at the Sentul International Circuit last month in Indonesia.

Sy moved up to second overall and gained a shot at the crown many thought was already in the bag for Mikola after just eight legs.

"He (Mikola) is coming," said AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña. "He said he wants to win the AF3 title. This will make the race for the overall crown more interesting. Never before has the race been this close."

Mikola leads the race with 127 points, 26 points ahead of Sy, lead driver of Speedtech Asia. Briton James Winslow of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO trails Sy by just a point, with last year's runner-up, John O'Hara of Ireland, also driving for Shell Helix, a far fourth with 79 points, followed by Dado Peña of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia with 75 and defending champion Christian Jones of Australia who has 72 points.

Sy, who turned 18 only this month, is hoping to duplicate his golden double in Sentul and prove his breakthrough victories were no fluke. Even if Sy succeeds in his mission, however, this is no guarantee he would bag the overall crown.

With a win worth 20 points, all Mikola has to do to clinch the crown is rule Race 11. A runner-up finish in both races, worth a combined 30 points, or a second and third place finishes, will do it for the Indon ace.

"It's still worth a try," said Sy, noting that he needs to win both races and hope that Mikola does not finish higher than fourth in both. "Who knows what will happen during the actual race? I'm hoping for the best."

Sy added he will also watch out for Winslow, who can also steal the crown.

"Aside from Ananda, I also have to keep an eye on James. He is just a point behind. Anything can still happen."

After that setback in Sentul, Mikola, of Fastron Racing with Threebond, announced he would race instead in the Australian leg of the A1 Grand Prix that coincides with Rounds 11 and 12 of the AF3.

But he changed his mind knowing that a victory in the series would further boost his stock.

While the race for the driver's title is still wide open, Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO, managed by 2003 AF3 champion Pepon Marave, has clinched the team crown after piling up 198 points.

Alvarez karts away Cadet crown

THE GOAL THAT JOHN ALVAREZ HAS set for himself lies just ahead. Some three to four years ahead.

"Hopefully I'll be Karter of the Year like Matteo (Guidicelli)," said Alvarez.

Anybody who isn't familiar as to how the 11-year-old racing prodigy will attack that goal can turn to his last race this season for clues.

Boxed off from the main pack, Alvarez found himself trailing far behind. And with still 17 points cushioning him from his closest pursuer, he could have easily just eased up.

Instead, he made the finish line his goal for that race and started clawing back into contention.

By the 11th lap, he posted the fastest time with 54.933. Going into the last lap, he was side-by-side with the leaders, Roman Academia and Javi Benitez, the guy trailing him in the overall standings.

At the end of the race, Alvarez had done enough to claim the Driver of the Year in the Cadet 60 Expert Class of the 2005 Shell Superkarting Series. Alvarez finished with a total of 334 points, beating Roman Academia for the title.

It was not an easy route to the title.

AFTER ruling the cadet class, John Alvarez has his sights set on higher goals.

Alvarez, backed by Paramount Insurance, Prestige Cars BMW, Castrol and Bridgestone, finished second in the kickoff race. He then dominated the Asian Karting Championship and Enchanted Kingdom legs. He also had a solid Cebu leg, where he soared to the top of the standings with a 17-point lead over Benitez going into the final race.

"The sacrifices paid off well," said Alvarez, who skipped a United States vacation to focus on his training.

"His exceptional racing skills and love for the sport are undeniable," said mom Cris, who always watches her son race along with husband Jim.

Pinoy booters in China for SEAG training

THE PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL TEAM LEFT FOR Guangzou, China, last Friday as part of its preparations for next month's Southeast Asian Games.

Composing the team are Ian Araneta, Aly Borromeo, Chippy Caligdong, Jesan Candolesa, Arnold Carino, Michael Casas, Roy Clores, Oliver Colina, Bervic Italia, Peter Jaugan, Jeffrey Liman, Edward Mallari, Jay Archie Marcaida, Vaughn Mellendrez, Ruffy Narvaez, Jose Lycham Ombos, Gerald Orcullo, Jerome Orcullo, Arnie Pasinabo, Andy Prochnow, Paul Tolentino, Alvin Valeroso, Jhoneil Vapor, Dexter Versario, Mark Villon and Michael Fuertes.

They were accompanied by head coach Aris Caslib, Rolando Pinero, Melo Sabacan, John Carmona, Vic Balaoing and interpreter Roberto Tee.

The Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Football Federation are supporting the trip.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez said that the team is scheduled to play at least 10 tune-up games against tough Chinese provincial and commercial teams.

Miriam rips CoL in WBL opening

DEFENDING ELEMENTARY CHAMPION Miriam College opened its campaign in the Milo BEST Women's Basketball League (WBL) with a big bang Sunday by blasting Community of Learners (CoL), 44-26, at the San Beda College-Manila gym in Mendiola.

Miriam dropped a 10-2 bomb behind the explosive plays of Bianca Belarmino, Therese Buencamino and Katrine Topacio to take a commanding 34-18 lead in the third quarter.

Buencamino, Belarmino and Topacio finished with 14, 12 and 10 points, respectively.

CoL made up for the setback by posting its second straight win in the high school level at the expense of PWU-JASMS, 42-35.

Nicole Turaray led CoL with 14 points.

Ping launches G5 Series at WW today

PING, THE STURDY BRAND FAMOUS FOR THE colored dots on its cavity back irons, launches the G5 Series today, marking the first time in the company's 46-year history that products in all categories are introduced all at once under one name.

Local retailers and invited guests have been invited to the two-in-one event at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club where the innovative series, including drivers, fairway woods, hybrids, irons and putters, will be unveiled.

Kicking off the day-long G5 launch is the product seminar for selected dealers after a luncheon at the Wack Wack ballroom. This will be followed by cocktails and demo session at the driving range in the evening.

Two top officials of Ping are in town to attend the affair and introduce the new clubs to local merchants and golfers in the same way Ping chair and CEO John Solheim explained to his worldwide sales team last August.

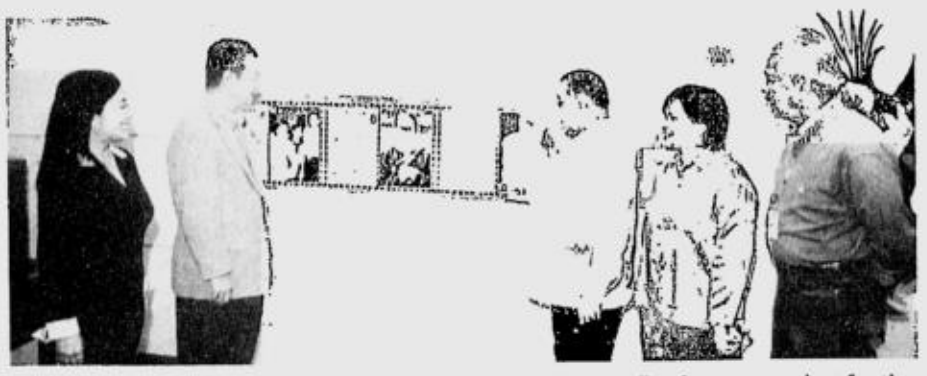
They are Steven Hsu, the Asian regional head, and Colin Field, fitting manager for Asia. They are coming from big product launches in Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand.

BEST weekend clinics on

THE BASKETBALL EFFICIENCY Scientific Training (BEST) Center, the pioneer in basketball clinics for kids, returns with its Saturday classes this weekend in four venues.

Founded by former national coach Nic Jorge and sponsored by Milo, the BEST Center is now running on its 26th year and has in its roster of graduates many of the who's who in Philippine basketball, including the likes of Jerry Codiñera, Benjie Paras and Jun Limpot.

This Saturday (Oct. 22), the clinics will be at the Ateneo College Covered Courts in Katipunan, at the Notre Dame of Greater Manila and at the San Beda College on Mendiola. Registration is ongoing either at the venues or through 4116260, 3723066 or telefax 372-3065 or email best@pacific.net.ph.



STAMP OF HEROES: PINOY Stamps Inc. launches its personalized stamps project for the Southeast Asian Games recently. Former Laguna vice governor and congressman Rodolfo "Totoy" Tingzon (third from left), the father of RP Tot Baseball, shows POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco (second, left) oversized samples of the project, to be produced in coordination with the Philippine Postal Corp. With them are (from left) Tingzon's daughter Rodylyn Tingzon-Manzano, president Pinoy Stamps Inc.; Tess Frogozo, VP and COO of ISON Infosystems Inc.; and Sports Commissioner Richie Garcia. The project will help revitalize postal services as well as help boost SEAG funds.

RACING CHEFS: Race winners Jay-R Evangelista and Edwin Octaviano of Our Lady of Fatima University, third placers Josef Alden Guillen and Franchesca Gregorio of University of Santo Tomas, and runners-up Conrad Cabuyao and Renen Paciente of Centro Escolar with organizers of the Grapescapade 2005 Culinary Adventure Race sponsored by Fresh California Grapes. Nineteen teams, all students from culinary schools in Metro Manila, vied in the three-hour race including wall climbing, rappelling, swimming, compass reading and running recently. The top finishers are flanked by (from left) PR consultant Tom Canchela, Fresh California Grapes' RP representative Evelyn Mercurio, Food magazine editor Norma Chikiamco, race director Ipe Borja and US Agricultural Trade Office director Dennis Voboril.

Creating luck

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE FIRST ONE WAS A REAL SHOCKER.

But the second one?

A little, I believe.

Anyway, first things first.

Purefoods had announced its re-entry into fame when it rose from the grave to score the most-talked about victory thus far of the PBA's 31st season.

That was the first one, registered on Friday last week.

It was like this.

From 29 points down, Purefoods stole an overtime win from Alaska.

If you won't consider that a shocker, darn.

Two jumpers had sent the game to overtime. One was a pull-up from afar by James Yap, the other a hit from nearby by Noy Castillo.

I was not that surprised because James Yap shoots triples with the ease of tossing pebbles into a manhole. Noy Castillo eats clutch shots for breakfast.

But if you consider the pressure cooker situations that James Yap and Noy Castillo had to contend with while delivering those killer blows, that's the time you start to appreciate the enormity of their efforts.

Not to brag, but (ahem!) I can shoot those kind of baskets myself. Ask Dayong. But that was before, when the knees were firm as steel, the wrist-action was decisive as a Muhammad Ali punch, the vision clear as 20-20.

But doing them with time almost expiring, the way James Yap and Noy Castillo did them?

Ah! You need more than talent to sink them, more than skill to make the job done.

Luck. That's the one component that, most often than not, comes into play when the going gets tough.

And yet, many among us have this tendency not to acknowledge this truism.

Everybody needs luck. You may not really be aware of it but, subconsciously, you create your own luck.

Phil Jackson created luck when he got Michael Jordan to lead the Chicago Bulls. Six NBA rings attest to that.

Phil Jackson created luck when he got Shaq O'Neal into the Los Angeles Lakers. Three NBA crowns attest to that.

Baby Dalupan created luck when he got Bogs Adornado, Atoy Co and Philip Cezar aboard Crispa in 1975. Include Abet Guidaben. Two PBA Grand Slams in 1976 and 1983 (*with Tommy Manotoc as coach—Ed)*—still a record up to now—attest to that.

Right after Purefoods beat Alaska on Friday last week, a rain of text messages came my way. One text message read: "Who could be Ryan's lucky charm?"

Ryan here is Ryan Gregorio, the articulate coach of Purefoods.

"I have an idea who his lucky charm is but, for now, I'd rather keep it to myself *muna*," I texted the texter back. "But in a sense, Ryan created his luck when he fielded in Noy Castillo in the dying seconds of the game."

Castillo's basket sent the game to overtime.

In the five-minute extension, Ryan Gregorio's Chunkee Giants labored in producing four points. But that was enough to win it for Purefoods as Tim Cone's Aces were limited to just two points.

Two nights later, Purefoods was at it again. It forced another overtime, this time against San Miguel Beer, before snatching another two-point victory.

"What a weekend," said Ryan Gregorio.

The weekend gave him a 3-1 card and the lead in the San Mig Coffee PBA Conference. But more importantly, it gave Ryan Gregorio his hottest start in years.

If his luck holds, the opposition had better start believing that luck just does not happen.

It happens because one creates a reason to make it happen—the way Ryan Gregorio seems to be doing it.

It can't get any better than that.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

Missing Echo, craving 'balut'

CINDY: "Show biz is what we make of it."

By Nini Valera

OF COURSE, I MISS Echo," said Filipino-Austrian model/actress Cindy Kurleto.

Echo is Jericho Rosales, Cindy's ex-boyfriend. Their relationship and subsequent breakup was a turbulent time in her life, affecting her career and even her reputation.

But after coming clean with the entertainment press months after the breakup, she has found her footing on the shaky ground of local show biz.

"*Syempre*, I don't want to be called a liar," Cindy said, referring to the tag which was once attached to her for consistently denying her relationship with Jericho. "But I had to deny and deny it because of work. As soon I was not restricted anymore from talking, I set the record straight with all the people in the press."

Her relationship with Echo, she explained, had to be kept secret to protect the actor's love team with Kristine Hermosa.

That did Cindy in.

But in interviews after their breakup, she finally broke her silence about the heartaches she supposedly endured as Jericho's girl.

No more lying

"I don't want to lie anymore," Cindy told INQUIRER Entertainment in a recent interview for her first movie outside ABS-CBN, under which she was a contract star. "I was only forced to lie about me and Jericho because we were told by the network to keep our relationship a secret. Now, if there's something to tell, I would tell it and really mean it and stand up for it."

Cindy claimed that she had no steady boyfriend, and it's "absolutely my choice."

"I used to be scared about the movie industry," she confided. "People told me things about the industry... that it was like this and like that... so I got scared. I didn't like it. But I found out that these were all clichés. Right now, I'm convinced that the industry is what we make of it. So I'm not scared anymore."

When her contract with ABS-CBN expired, Cindy signed up as mainstays in shows "Daddy, Di Do Du" and "Encantadia," both on GMA 7. She admitted to missing people she had worked with on ABS-CBN.

"I miss Aubrey Miles, my co-host in 'Magandang Tanghali Bayan,'" she said. "I miss the people who work behind the cameras. They're so *mabait* (kind) and so creative. Of course, I also miss Echo although we didn't really work together that much."

She has since found her home with the group of Vic Sotto.

"I'm flattered that he chose me to be his leading lady in this movie," said Cindy, referring to "Ispiritista: Itay, May Moomoo!" a co-production of Regal Entertainment and APT Films. "There was no star syndrome on the set, and if you're very observant, you'd learn a lot from Vic, how he handles fans, how he handles tapings, things like that."

Vic's serious side

Cindy claimed she had also seen the serious side of Vic.

"We don't really have serious talks because he teases me a lot all the time," she said. "I think that's part of his charm. The longer I work with Vic Sotto, the more I adore him."

Vic also taught Cindy to eat her first *balut*.

"Now I'm craving for it," she said.

To make this movie with Vic, Cindy turned down four other movie offers.

"I'm a very loyal person," she said. "I would always finish what I signed up for. People who work with me know that. I have constant offers. Rejecting the other offers was a matter of choice. I think I'm very, very lucky that I don't have to go for all the offers."

Imelda, the musical opens in March

SYDNEY—YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE shoes, now catch the musical.

Former Talking Heads frontman David Byrne is teaming up with pop star Fatboy Slim to write a "disco" musical about the life of former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

"Here Lies Love" will premiere at next year's Adelaide Festival, taking place in venues transformed into giant dance clubs.

The music will be continuous and spectators will be expected to dance along and drink from the bar just as they would in a nightclub, a spokesperson said.

According to a statement from the organizers, the show will draw on the life of Marcos, including her decadent lifestyle, her love of discos and her well-documented passion for shoes.

The piece, co-commissioned by the Adelaide Festival and the English city of Liverpool, will open in the southeastern Australian city on March 9.

AFP

Guitar quartet in arts fest

THE KASILAG GUITar Quartet, whose members are winners of the National Music Competition for Young Artists, will perform at the "MCO Arts Festival 2005."

The quartet—Chito Cariño, Perf de Castro, Dong de Dios and Phil Valdez—studied under Maestro Jose Valdez of the Philippine Women's University College of Music. Their name is in honor of Philippine National Artist for Music, the late Lucrecia Roces Kasilag.

For this recital, the KGQ premieres three compositions: Kasilag's "Lullaby," "Mallow" by Rohan Leach and an arrangement composer Antonino Buenaventura's "Mountain Sketches."

KGQ will perform on Oct. 22, 6 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall of the Equitable PCI Bank Bldg. on Makati Avenue corner H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City. Tickets are P300 each. Discounts are given to students and senior citizens with valid IDs. Call 878-4359 or 840-7000 loc. 2630

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SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	WALLACE & GROMIT 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
MASAHISTA 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:20
CORPSE BRIDE 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	4 INTO THE BLUE 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
2 LORD OF WAR 11:55 / 2:45 / 5:35 / 8:25	5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
3 SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:15 R3 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Oct 21 Friday	COCA COLA vs TALK N TEXT 4:40 pm; ALASKA vs AIR 21 7:25 pm	Oct 23 Sunday	AIR 21 vs STA LUCIA 4:10 pm; RED BULL vs SAN MIGUEL 6:40 pm

www.aranetacenter.net

To ouch the president, regretful scars and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: ARE WE TALKING ABOUT A serious illness here?

Guest: It depends on how soon the treatment. If treated early, patients can lead normally relative lives.

(*Ano daw*?)

***

Host: Why is all this political turmoil happening now?

Guest: If you analyze the reports, most of them have to do with plots to ouch the president, that's why.

(Ouch—that really hurts!)

***

Host: What's so special about your new TV show?

Guest: We will go behind the stories we cover and show never before scenes!

(Ay, never before scenes!)

***

Host: Was it a suicide? How do you know for sure?

Guest: No doubt, because she slashed her both wrists.

(Ay, her both wrists!)

***

Host: Be careful not to get into accidents on your trip.

Guest: I'll try.

Host: Make sure, because accidents leave heartbreaking and regretful scars.

(What in the world are regretful scars?)

***

Host: Why are you here during the finals of this competition?

Guest: I'm here for (name of finalist), to support him morally!

(Translation: To give him moral support.)

***

Host: In these confusing times, how can we retain our sanity?

Guest: We should think first, *bago tayo mag*-dump into conclusion!

(Ay, dump into conclusion!)

***

Host: Will you invite them to your show?

Guest: *Sobrang* I'm sure *na matutuwa kayo sa bagong* show *namin—sobra*!

(Promise, *ha*? *Sobra ka talaga*!)

***

Host: How is your brother now after the accident?

Guest: *Mahina, nagre*-recupate *pa*.

(*Nagre*-recupate? What's that?)

***

Host: Why did you stop becoming friends with (name of celebrity)?

Guest: Because, after sometime, he became very crankly.

(Frankly, there's no such word. Cranky, *puwede pa*...)

***

Quizmaster: Fill in the blank: "*Pupulutin ka sa* _____."

Contestant 1: *Tubig*!

Contestant 2: *Palayan*!

(No, *kangkungan*.)

Feedback

FROM **Julie Ann K. Maneja** and other students in Lipa, Batangas: "*Napapansin po namin ang kasuotan ni* **Angel Locsin** *bilang* Darna *sa* TV. *Maaari po kasi itong maging sanhi ng pagka-akit ng mga kalalakihan, at pagbibigay ng hindi magandang halimbawa sa karamihan. Sana po ay maitama ito at magkaroon ng konsiderasyon ang mga bumubuo ng palabas ng* 'Darna!'"

'Children of the Mountains'

THE CENTER for Environmental Awareness and Apocalypse Point Productions' documentary "Children of the Mountains," won the Mark Haslam prize in the Planet in Focus film festival in Toronto, Canada. More than 70 films from 31 countries competed for the award for the motion picture that best inspires reflection and positive action toward the social and ecological health of our planet.

"Children of the Mountains" tells the story of the Agta, one of the last hunter-gatherer tribes in the world. Displaced by unabated logging in the Sierra Madres, they are victims of abuse and neglect, and stoically speak about the fate of the forests in the award-winning film. *Call CEAE at 721-7360 or e-mail info@ceae.org*

MORAL GUARDIAN
Movie Review and Television Regulatory Board (MTRCB) Chair Consoliza Laguardia is the newly elected member of the Rotary Club of Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Laguardia (right), with Rotary Club International Service Director Molly Reyes, believes in advocating Rotary ideals and preventing the moral decay of the youth.

Fall in love with Chris Botti

JUST RELEASED: "When I Fall in Love," featuring talented instrumentalist-composer Chris Botti from Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

Chris released his first solo album in 1995 and immediately made a name in contemporary jazz. His new 13-track album showcases songs performed by Paula Cole ("What I'll do" and "How Love Should Be") and Sting ("La Belle Dame Sans Regrets"). The album also includes contemporary standards like Sade's "No Ordinary Love," "Cinema Paradiso" by Ennio and Andrea Marricone and "Time to Say Goodbye (Con te Partiro)," popularized by Andrea Bocelli in 1997.

SPIN CITY

***

Paramita is Vicor Music's latest recording act. It's the Buddhist term for perfection. The group, composed of Ria Bautista (vocalist/drummer), Norman Dellosa (bassist) and Alsey Cortez (guitarist), has released its debut album titled "Tala," with "Takipsilim" as the carrier single.

7th CINEMANILA international film festival
In cooperation with the City of Manila
SCREENINGS OCTOBER 20

Isetan	Rainmaker 10:30am/ 12:05pm/ 1:40pm/ 3:15pm/ 4:50pm/ 6:25pm/ 8:00pm				
Gotesco	The Leap 11:10am/ 12:30pm/ 2:30pm/ 4:30pm/ 6:30pm/ 8:30pm				
Ayala Cinema	Palermo Hollywood 11:30am	Hidden Blade 2:00pm	Palermo Hollywood 4:30pm	Dear Wendy 7:00pm	Hidden Blade 9:30pm

Please call the following cinemas for details: SM Manila 5239240, Ever Gotesco 7346901, Isetan 7334228, Robinson's Place Ermita 5367809, Ayala Cinema 7297777
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Email: miff@cinemanila.com.ph • Website: www.cinemanila.com.ph

OPENS OCTOBER 26
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
ASIA's #1 ROMANTIC-COMEDY
I believe ang kapalaran mo'y ako.
At sana, ganun din ang puso mo.
JEON JI HYUN
CHA TAE-HYUN
MY SASSY GIRL
NEW TAGALOG VERSION

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MASTER OF MASS DESTRUCTION
"ONE OF THE COOLEST MOVIES OF THE YEAR."
"SUPERB. A BLOCKBUSTER WITH BRAINS."
JARED LETO BRIDGET MOYNAHAN IAN HOLM AND ETHAN HAWKE
LORD OF WAR
WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WEAPON.

2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FROM THE SPECIAL EFFECTS TEAM THAT GAVE YOU "THE LORD OF THE RINGS"
COMES THE MOST VISUALLY STUNNING FANTASY EPIC OF THE YEAR!
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2
THE ELEMENTAL MIGHT

OPENS TOMORROW
IN THEATERS WORLDWIDE!
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
NO ONE GETS OUT ALIVE
DWAYNE "THE ROCK" JOHNSON
DOOM
KARL URBAN ROSAMUND PIKE BEN DANIELS RAZAAQ ADOTI
Produced by JOHN WELLS JOHN D. SCHOFIELD LORENZO DI BONAVENTURA Directed by ANDRZEJ BARTKOWIAK
www.doommovie.com A UNIVERSAL PICTURE
Solar Entertainment Corporation

"RX MEN": Medical mission on-the-go

"MAY TRABAHO KA": Mariz Umali and Paolo Abrera

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

What's new in QTV news?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Chefs raid kitchens of the stars, housewives take a day off, doctors make house calls

AND NOW FOR THE NEWS.

QTV News and Public Affairs (of the repackaged Zoe 11) goes beyond the headlines, by offering reality and public service shows that enlighten and entertain.

"It's also powered by GMA News and Public Affairs," explained Leo Sanchez, officer in charge for Alternative Platforms. "It's the same team committed to deliver 'Serbisyong Totoo' (Real Service). QTV also carries that promise. In effect, GMA is merely expanding its reach through QTV."

Wilma Galvante, senior vice president for Entertainment, concurred with Sanchez. "This is a welcome opportunity for us. We've always wanted to come out with new shows, but there are no time slots available on GMA 7. QTV is giving us and our talents additional platforms."

"NEWS ON Q": Rhea Santos and Ivan Mayrina

THE "KA-TOQUE" chefs

Sanchez explained: "We offer innovative, entertaining, informative and service-oriented programs. Our goal is to enrich the lives of our viewers by actively... protecting their rights, helping find solutions to everyday woes, teaching them ways to improve their well-being and encouraging them to make the most of what they have."

Aside from the usual news and public affairs shows, QTV is also coming out with reality shows that are family-friendly.

"Nothing edgy," Galvante said. "Although reality is also a format that women may find appealing, our reality shows do not tease and titillate."

Specific needs

"Our programs answer specific, concrete needs," Sanchez said. "We have a reality program called 'May Trabaho Ka!' that gives job opportunities. Another one called 'Day Off' promises busy working moms a much-needed day of rest."

These are shows where housewives can pick up a lot of tips.

"They're also funny," Galvante said. "After all, television is primarily an entertainment box. First objective is to entertain. After the viewers are hooked, then you can impart positive messages."

Another unique reality show is "Rx Men."

"It's like medical mission-on-the-go," said Gigi Santiago, assistant vice president for Alternative Productions.

"The show is hosted by young, idealistic doctors who sincerely want to help," said Meckoy Quiogue, president and chief operating officer for marketing and productions. They will roam not just city streets, but also "far-flung barangays."

QTV is also jazzing up the cooking show format.

"We've seen all sorts of cooking shows since the time of Nora Daza," Quiogue said.

"In QTV, we have 'Ka-Toque; Lutong Barkada' hosted by young, real-life chefs," said Santiago. "They will teach viewers how to make delicious yet affordable meals with ingredients available in their kitchens."

For a celebrity touch, "the chefs will raid the kitchens of stars," Galvante said. "We noticed an increase in enrollment in culinary schools. Cooking is something productive the youth can get into. It's heartening for parents to see their children showing off their skills in the kitchen."

A centerpiece of the public affairs department is "Sana'y Muling Makapiling," anchored by award-winning broadcast journalist Jessica Soho.

"It aims to reunite families and help people search for missing relatives," Quiogue said.

"We've discovered that there is no clear system in locating missing persons," Sanchez said.

"Sana'y" exemplifies the kind of programming they hope QTV will be known for.

"Programs with values but are enjoyable at the same time," Quiogue said.

"We thought out-of-the-box in presenting and addressing public concerns," Santiago concluded. "QTV is all about quality programming responsive to the needs of women, but to be enjoyed by the entire family."

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"Frozen Land" (Finland) by Aku Louhimies
"Casablanca, Angels Don't Fly" (Morocco) by Mohamed Asli
"Innocence" (Senegal) by Dyana Gerima
"My Mother" (Poland) by Krzysztof Krauze
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movietime PREMIERE
ISPIRITISTA
October 22, 2005
Cinema 3
MY SASSY GIRL
October 24, 2005
Cinema 2
movietime FILM FESTIVAL
SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
October 28-30
Cinema 2
Vic Sotto
ISPIRITISTA
Itay, may moomoo!
FOR GUARANTEED SEATS
THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND THE LAVA GIRL
11:50FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:25/06:45
05:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
121:30FS/01:00MF/03:00/07:00
08320LFS/09:00LMF/10:30END
MEGAMALL
3 LORD OF WAR
11:00FS/11:40MF/02:10/04:40/07:10
09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE KING & I
SM Cinema Centerstage
2 LORD OF WAR
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:08LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
THE CONSTANT GARDENER
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/05:50/07:10
09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:40 END
METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 LORD OF WAR
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 WALLACE AND GROMIT
9 DUBAI
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 SABLAY KA NA, PASAWAY KA PA
12 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
SM MIGHTY/FAIRVIEW
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 LORD OF WAR
8 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
9 DUBAI
10 DARK WATER
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
MIGHTY/NORTHEDSA
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 DUBAI
4 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
5 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
6 INTO THE BLUE
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 LORD OF WAR
SM CITY MANILA
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
6 LORD OF WAR
7 CINEMANILA
8 LAND OF THE DEAD
9 DUBAI
10 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA P
11 WALLACE AND GROMIT
12 BROTHERS GRIMM
MIGHTY/STAMESA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
9 TRANSPORTER 2
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
MIGHTY/SOUTHMALL
1 LORD OF WAR
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 INTO THE BLUE
7 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
8 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
9 TRANSPORTER 2
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
SM SAN LAZARO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
5 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
6 DUBAI
MIGHTY/BICUTAN
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 LORD OF WAR
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM SUPERCENTER/SUCAT
1 LORD OF WAR
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
LUZON
MIGHTY/PAMPANGA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
6 DUBAI
MIGHTY/BACOLOD
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM MIGHTY/BAGUIO
1 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
4 40 YEAR OOLD VIRGIN
5 LORD OF WAR
6 DUBAI
7 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
8 INTO THE BLUE
SM MIGHTY/MARILAO
1 PERFECT CATCH
2 ONE MISSED CALL 2
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
MIGHTY/DASMARINA
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR
SM MIGHTY/LUCENA
1 DUBAI
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 THE CAVE
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
MIGHTY/BATANGAS
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 PERFECT MAN
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 DUBAI
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM MIGHTY/CEBU
1 KING & I (STAGE PLAY)
2 CONSTANT GARDENER
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 PERFECT CATCH
5 BLADE OF THE ROS
6 ONE MISSED CALL 2
7 DUBAI
8 LORD OF WAR
SM MIGHTY/LOILO
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 INTO THE BLUE
7 RESERVED
8 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
MIGHTY/DAVAO
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 PERFECT MAN
MIGHTY/CAGAYAN DEOR
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 PERFECT MAN
3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2
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CINEMA 1 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - PG13 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
CINEMA 2 WALLACE & GROMIT - GP 10:50, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
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CINEMA 3 LORD OF WAR PG13 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50
CINEMA 4 ADVENTURES of SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL - GP 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
CINEMA 5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 - R13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
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1 THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20.
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN MTRCB R-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 LORD OF WAR R-13
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
3 SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 R-13
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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
WALLACE AND GROMIT GP 12:30,2:30,4:30,6:30,8:30
ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY AND LAVA GIRL GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,8:00
DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO R13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40
LORD OF WAR R13 11:50,2:20,4:50,7:20,9:50

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1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 • THX	6 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
2 INTO THE BLUE	7 TRANSPORTER 2
3 LORD OF WAR	8 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	9 CORPSE BRIDE
5 MASAHISTA	10 WALLACE AND GROMIT

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LORD OF WAR	
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2	5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2	6 CUT / TULI / DILIM / ILUSYON MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN
4 MASAHISTA	7 TOGETHER / HALA-HALA LILIA FOREVER / MINSAN PA

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2	5 INTO THE BLUE
2 LORD OF WAR	6 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2	7 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	8 MASAHISTA

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MASAHISTA
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
3 LORD OF WAR
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378

1 MASAHISTA
2 LORD OF WAR
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 LORD OF WAR

Local Digital Features

ALA VERDE ALA POBRE
(Ana Capri, Ebong Joson) ***Directed by:*** Bricio Santos

ANG DAAN PATUNGONG KALIMUGTONG
(Anatyn Bangsi-il, Nemee Tocdangan, Rhenuel Ordono)
Directed by: Ramon De Guzman

CUT
(Joel Torre) ***Directed by:*** Jon Red

DILIM
(Rica Peralejo, Mario Magallona, Emilio Garcia)
Directed by: Topel Lee

ILUSYON
(Yul Servo, JC Parker)
Directed by: Paulo Villaluz / Ellen Ramos

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN
(Richard Quan, Neil Ryan Sese, Maria Isabel Lopez)
Directed by: Gil Portes

TRABAHO
(Ping Medina, Sigrid Bernardo) ***Directed by:*** Ned Trespeces

TULI
(Desiree Del Valle, Carlo Aquino) ***Directed by:*** Auraeus Solito

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1 BLADE OF THE ROSE
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 LAND OF THE DEAD

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 LORD OF WAR
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 MASAHISTA
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 LORD OF WAR

1 PERFECT CATCH
2 UNDISCOVERED
3 LORD OF WAR
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188 STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

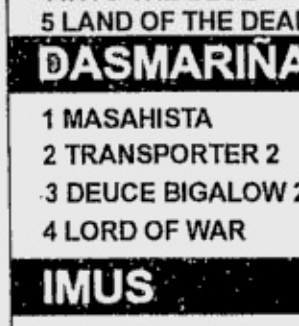
1 MASAHISTA
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVA GIRL

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 MASAHISTA
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 UNDISCOVERED
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
6 LORD OF WAR

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
3 LORD OF WAR
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 THE DESCENT
6 UNDISCOVERED

1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LAND OF THE DEAD



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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	2 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	3 DUBAI	4 MASAHISTA
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	2 WALLACE & GROMIT	3 THX LORD OF WAR 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUTHER	5 INTO THE BLUE	6 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	7 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO 12:25, 2:25, 4:25, 6:25, 8:25		2 CINEMANILA For more details call, 750-4180 TO 81	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGOLO 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 LUTHER 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:10 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LORD OF WAR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO		2 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	
	3 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	4 DUBAI	5 LORD OF WAR	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 TRANSPORTER 2	2 THE CONSTANT GARDENER	3 ONE MISSED CALL 2	4 BLADE OF THE ROSE

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1. DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO
2. DUBAI
3. THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
4. MASAHISTA
5. LORD OF WAR

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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ONL'S Mcoy Fundales, Clem Castro, and brothers Ace and JM del Mundo: "We have no malicious intent."

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MECHANICS

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3. The balloons shall be released between October 21 and December 31, 2005.

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Orange you glad they're no lemons?

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

THE MEMBERS OF THE band Orange and Lemons offer no apologies when people find similarities between their compositions and other artists' recordings.

"We have no malicious intent," says vocalist and guitarist Clem Castro. "In fact, we're not even aware that such songs already exist."

A case in point is "Pinoy Ako," the theme from the reality TV show, "Pinoy Big Brother," which, according to an online forum, is a rip-off of The Care's "Chandeliers."

Clem and his bandmates Mcoy Fundales (acoustic guitars/vocals), JM del Mundo (bass) and Ace del Mundo (drums/percussions) say that "Pinoy Ako's" melody and lyrics, written by songwriter Jonathan Manalo, are all original. But they admit that the arrangement is already a mish-mash of varied influences, including some from Rey Valera.

The band says criticisms aren't new to them. When they were starting out seven or eight years ago, they would get flak from new wave hard cores who accused them of being poseurs.

"But we never personally announced that we're a new wave band," Clem clarifies. "We were required by bar owners to do covers in our gigs and we chose mostly '80s new wave stuff because we observed that no other band was doing it."

Mcoy says they are basically a pop-rock band that's heavily influenced by British groups like the Beatles and the Smiths, not only musically, but also fashion-wise. Clem has also imbibed the accent, which slips out when he sings. All this British-ness has stirred up another criticism—that they are pretentious.

Anglophiles from Bulacan

The guys may be self-confessed Anglophiles but they're Bulacan natives at heart. For starters, they don't have the stiff upper lip and Brit's legendary dry humor. They're casual and easy to please. They hardly ever use "bloody" in their expletives and instead exclaim using Tagalog words that are considered archaic but poetic.

But they do source some of their fashion finds from the UK. "As in ukay-ukay," says the quartet, adding that they don't go as far as donning trench coats to complete the look.

More than criticisms, the band gets a lot of love from their new fans, who are hooked on "Pinoy Big Brother." Thus, Universal Records will be releasing a repackaged version of their sophomore album, "Strike Whilst the Iron is Hot" (after their 2003 indie debut, "Love in the Land of Rubber Shoes and Dirty Ice Cream"). The popular theme song plus a couple of new songs will be included in the already packed 12-track CD.

Clem says they got involved in the project when ABS-CBN, which airs the show and owns Star Records, approached Universal for a name and one boss recommended them. The network's decision-makers need not be convinced since business unit head Lauren Dyogi was already won over by the band's first hit song, "Hanggang Kailan."

"We've met all the housemates and we've shook hands with them but unfortunately we don't get to watch the show," confesses Clem.

You see, the guys spend most of their time traveling (they take public transportation) from their homes in Baliwag, Bulacan to their gigs and appointments in Metro Manila and back. It's tiring but they don't mind.

"Bottom line for us is the music," the twentysomething fulltime musicians say. "We're not here for the fame."

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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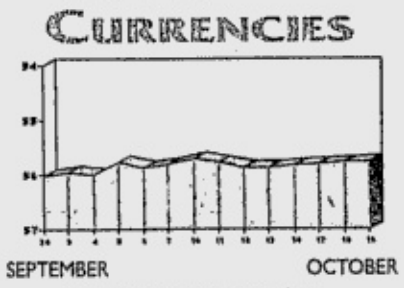

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 19, 2005

GOLD: $468.20-468.70

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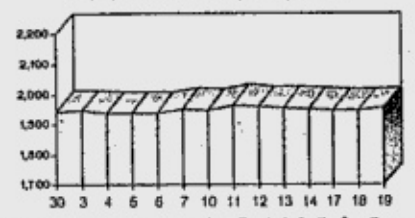


Shares close 0.36% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.36 percent higher after the Supreme Court upheld a key tax reform measure that the government said was needed to control

SHARES/ B2

Export growth targets cut anew

Trade deficit seen rising to $8.3 billion this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT again scaled down its export growth targets for 2005 and 2006 due to slowing global demand for electronics and rising production costs.

As a result, the country's trade deficits are expected to balloon to $8.3 billion this year and $9.7 billion next year.

The latest official forecasts, which the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would present to the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Council, indicated a lower export growth forecast of 6 percent for this year and 8 percent next year.

It was the second time this year that the government lowered its export growth outlook. The DBCC had originally set a two-year export target of 10 percent. It first slashed the target for 2005 to 8 percent.

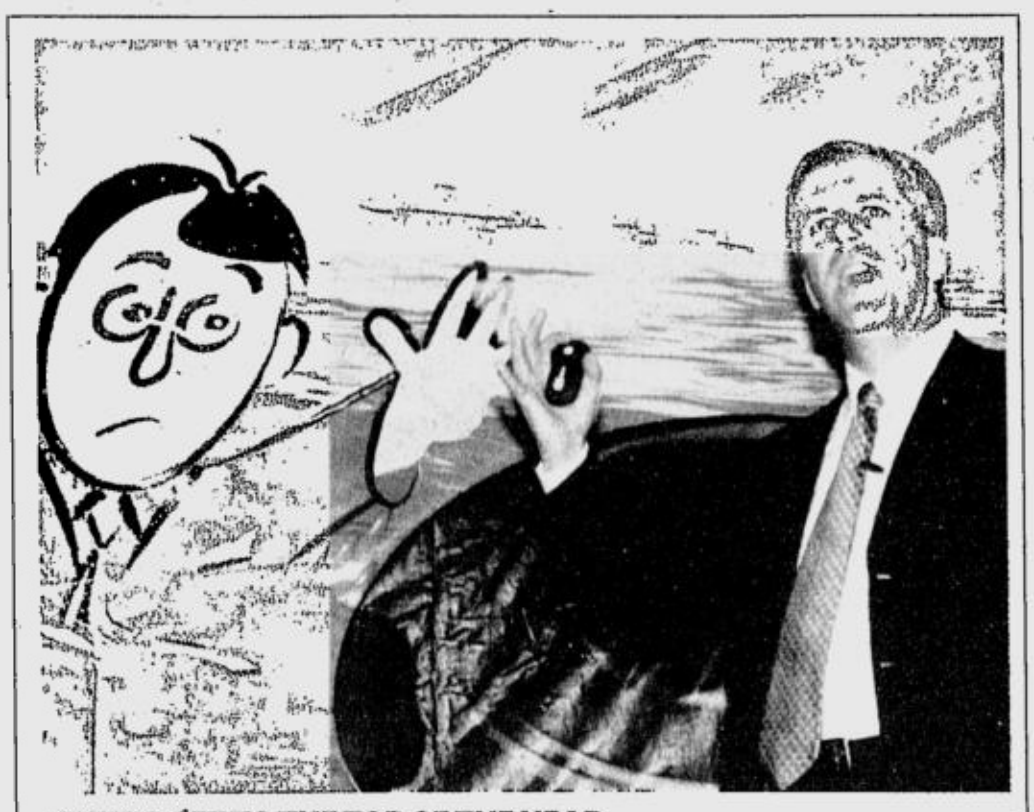
The import growth projection was likewise trimmed to 9 percent for this year and next year from the previous forecasts of 13 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

The more bearish outlook for exports, based on an emerging scenario drawn up by the BSP as of October, factored in the slowing demand for electronics, which accounted for 60 percent of total export receipts this year.

Based on the scenario, the country is expected to earn only $40.9 billion from exports this year and $44.1 billion next year as against the projected import bills of $49.2 billion and $53.8 billion.

The expected trade deficits of $8.3 billion and $9.7 billion—respectively accounting for 8.6 percent and 8.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP)—would

EXPORT/ B2



HOW TO GET TO THE TOP OF THE HEAP
Jim Davis of SAS, the world's largest privately held software outfit with about 10,000 employees in more than 300 offices around the globe, talks about how his firm helped Fortune 500 companies develop and drive their organizations forward during the 4th MAP International CEO Conference held yesterday at the Makati Shangri-la. RUDY ESPERAS

New IC chief says she's ready to take on pre-need firms

By Michelle V. Remo

NEWLY INSTALLED INSURANCE Commissioner Evangeline C. Escobillo yesterday said the commission was prepared and willing to become the regulator of pre-need firms.

Escobillo's perceived hard line reformist stance on the pre-need sector has industry executives worrying over the fate of their firms.

She agreed with comments that the insurance and pre-need businesses are not much different. The regulation of pre-need firms was therefore a role the Insurance Commission was prepared to take on, she said in an interview during a Senate hearing on the national budget.

"The pre-need business is not foreign to the insurance industry," Escobillo said. "It is also not foreign to myself, considering that I had been involved with the [Securities and Exchange Commission] before, providing technical support."

The new insurance commissioner served as a consultant for the SEC in 1990 when she was still president of the Actuarial Society of the Philippines. She said that when she was a consultant, she did reviews of financial statements, pricing and reserve valuation reports of pre-need companies.

However, Escobillo said that the Insurance Commission simply would let Congress decide on whether to transfer the regulation of the pre-need industry from the SEC to the IC, and would not meddle in the congressional deliberations.

"But we are prepared if ever the responsibility is given to us," she said.

Once the pre-need industry is placed under the regulation of the Insurance Commission, Escobillo said the agency would begin to seek out resources, such as support to enhance its technological capacity.

The Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Companies earlier issued a statement opposing the appointment of Escobillo as head of the commission, even while the proposal of transferring supervision of the pre-need industry to the Insurance Commission is still being deliberated in Congress.

NEW IC/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

PLDT sets P54-B investment /B2

Gov't scouts for new job markets abroad /B8

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PLDT sets P54-B investment

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. has earmarked a P54-billion capital investment from 2006 to 2008 to maintain its leadership in the wireless business and expand into growth areas, such as high-speed Internet for the masses.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said in a speech yesterday before the Management Association of the Philippines that PLDT would spark a "broadband revolution" that would make high-speed Internet access "a basic communications service all over the country."

A broadband revolution, said Nazareno, would reinvent PLDT's business and eventually replicate what text messaging had done to the mobile phone.

The high-speed data transmission would give rise to new Internet products and create business opportunities, similar to what the electronic transfer of mobile phone credits had spawned among small entrepreneurs.

"This will open up numerous opportunities for dramatic improvements in education, business and employment," Nazareno said.

Apart from broadband, Nazareno said PLDT would engage in Voice over Internet Protocol, which would provide cheap calls through the Internet.

"VoIP will come and we won't just stand by and watch it steal our business," he said. "We will embrace it but we will make sure that we phase in our entry into VoIP without sacrificing the huge legacy network that we have." He said that in three years, the company would have spent $250 million to $300 million to install the broadband infrastructure needed to transmit bigger chunks of data at a faster speed.

This cost is part of the P54-billion capital investment that the company would undertake over the medium term.

"We are spending P17 to P18 billion for capital expenditures in the next three years starting 2006," he said.

Nazareno added that the company was on the way to meeting its P29-billion profit target this year, and would announce "record-breaking" third quarter earnings next month.

The company is expected to report more than P8 billion in earnings for the third quarter.

Once deep in debt, PLDT is paying its obligations ahead of schedule.

Nazareno said the company's "cash-generating capability" would be stable given steadily increasing profits and declining obligations.

BIR drops case versus GMA-7

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE has dropped a 14-year-old tax deficiency case against GMA Network Inc., formerly Republic Broadcasting System Inc., for lack of merit.

In 1991, the BIR billed then Republic Broadcasting P51.74 million for unpaid franchise taxes in the third and fourth quarters of 1987 and for the entire 1991.

Republic Broadcasting filed an administrative case, contending that it was not liable for franchise taxes for the years cited by the internal revenue agency as it had no franchise during the period cited by the BIR.

The broadcast firm changed its name to GMA Network Inc. in 1996.

Now the most profitable television outfit, GMA plans to sell part of its shares to the public next year. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Business and cultural survival -2

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

ONE OF THINGS I AM MOST PASSIONATE about is visiting the many interesting cities of Mindanao.

Last month, I was invited by Mayor Lino Montilla of Tacurong City to the annual "Talakudong Festival."

Talakudong is a Maguindanao term for "head covering." It was said that their ancestors used to cover their heads to ward off the heat of the sun.

I am a "lechon" lover and I was amazed at the quality of "lechon" served us by our host, Mrs. Rosita Haw, one of the city's pioneering businesswomen.

Incidentally, livestock production (poultry, cattle, goat, swine) is one of the fastest growing industries in the city today. It also has a breeding station for fighting cocks.

It is not unusual to find out that quite a number of businessmen from Manila, and even as far as Malaysia, have been to this city to explore business opportunities in the agricultural arena since it is the agro-industrial, commercial and education center of Sultan Kudarat and Central Cotabato.

The influx of migrants from Luzon and Visayas had transformed it into a melting pot of various ethnic groups of diverse cultures. Surprisingly, the people are predominantly Hiligaynon or Ilonggo-speaking.

The city of Tacurong covers 15,340 hectares of plain agricultural land suited for all kinds of crops, such as rice, corn, sugar, coconut and African palm oil.

The Southern Grains Complex, one of the largest in Asia, is found here and caters to the milling requirements of the farmers.

This city is also one of the most transparent and investor friendly cities in the region.

Tinalak of Lake Sebu

I was greatly impressed with what I saw during the week-long exhibit of the "Davao: Lumads and Landscapes" here in Manila. Women from different ethnic tribes were brought all the way from Mindanao to demonstrate the art of weaving.

One can see the amount of work and labor put into the weaving of the famous "tinalak" and other Mindanao fabrics.

I went to Lake Sebu last week, right after the celebration of the "Takudong" Festival of Tacurong to eat tilapia.

There I met Jen Iko of the Indigenous Women Weavers Association Inc., who informed me of the many activities that the group was doing with the T'boli women to improve the quality of the "tinalak."

The "tinalak" is a fine and colorful fabric woven from "krungon" or abaca.

The cloth has a brown background, lightened by red and beige designs.

Jen showed me a variety of beautiful "tinalak," that was softer and with a more attractive luster and shine.

The association discovered a technology that largely improved the quality of the tinalak, which used to be rough and coarse.

With this development, Jen hopes that the market for the woven fabric would grow.

The association is now focusing on educating the T'boli weavers for them to demand a higher pay for their work.

The association's vision is to professionalize the weaving industry and introduce better techniques to improve the texture of the fabric.

They look forward to the day when they can produce tinalak in commercial volume for weavers to have sustainable income.

I would not be surprised if one day, the island's fabrics and designs would be used by the fashion houses in Europe and the USA.

There are many more tales about people of Mindanao and their noble desire to improve not only their own well-being, but of others as well.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; Mindanao Rep, Export Development Council; chair, Joji Ilagan Foundation; former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 19, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.8	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	31	31	20,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	51.5	50.5	51	402,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	900,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	110,500
International Exch. Bank	19	19	18.75	19	128,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27	110,000
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	3,200
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	68,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2870	2870	2870	2870	90
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2015	2020	910
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	5,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.91	0.92	0.91	0.91	1,550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	735	730	730	17,660
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	42,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	2,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	9,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3	2.9	2.95	2,280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1660	1670	1660	1665	94,070
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	190,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	9,600,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	5,900
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.25	21	21	198,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	5,645,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.35	4,501,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	1	0.95	1	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	236,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.9	1,226,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.58	0.58	510,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	1,000,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.15	1,095,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	97,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	34.5	35	380,200
Pancake House Inc.	2.8	3.05	2.8	2.9	521,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	26,900
San Miguel Corp. B	91.5	92.5	91	92	33,500
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	69,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	287.5	292.5	287.5	290	76,700
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	22,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	1,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.16	2.18	2.16	2.18	990,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.77	460,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	1	1	3,860,000
A. Brown Co. Inc.	0.85	0.9	0.85	0.9	160,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	140,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	110,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	1,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	417,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	550,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5.3	5	5.1	1,379,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43	42.5	43	536,100
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	140,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	1,140,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	330,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.29	300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	260,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	220,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	70,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	700,000
SM Investments Corp.	218	220	218	220	1,581,360
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.135	0.12	0.135	5,310,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	250,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Ploop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.91	1,030,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.78	320,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	1,708,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	399,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11	11	11	11	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.8	3,345,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	50,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	7,550,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	1,160,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	796,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.195	0.18	0.195	2,150,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	420,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	4,356,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	10,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	111,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	390,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	250,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.225	0.215	0.225	17,310,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.24	0.25	0.235	0.25	24,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	3,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	12,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.93	0.99	0.93	0.98	5,590,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.18	1.1	1.18	15,239,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25	25.5	25	25.5	82,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.22	0.245	0.22	0.235	970,000
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	40,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	110,000

CURRENCIES

October 19, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.836050	1.000000	55.7730
Japan	Yen	0.007229	0.008647	0.4823
United Kingdom	Pound	1.464259	1.751400	97.6808
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107758	0.128889	7.1885
Switzerland	Franc	0.643858	0.770119	42.9518
Canada	Dollar	0.709359	0.848464	47.3214
Singapore	Dollar	0.493274	0.590005	32.9063
Australia	Dollar	0.624851	0.747384	41.6838
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.217817	2.652731	147.9508
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222947	0.266667	14.8728
Brunei	Dollar	0.491823	0.588270	32.8096
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020477	0.024492	1.3660
UAE	Dirham	0.227633	0.272272	15.1854
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.196100	66.7101
Argentina	Peso	0.281973	0.337268	18.8104
Brazil	Real	0.372572	0.445633	24.8543
Denmark	Kroner	0.133997	0.160274	8.9390
India	Rupee	0.018559	0.022198	1.2380
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221558	0.265006	14.7802
Mexico	New Peso	0.077057	0.092168	5.1405
New Zealand	Dollar	0.580793	0.694686	38.7447
South Africa	Rand	0.127642	0.152672	8.5150
Korea	Won	0.000794	0.000950	0.0530
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024928	0.029816	1.6629

Shares . . .

From page B1

a chronic budget deficit, dealers said.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ended its suspension of the expanded value-added tax which the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo says is crucial to reforming the tax system.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 6.96 points to 1,954.29 after trading between 1,942.41 and 1,955.81. Volume was 302.6 million shares worth P957 million ($17.17 million).

The broader all-shares index advanced 4.84 points to 1,185.64.

Gainers beat losers 47 to 17 with 39 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

Export growth . . .

From page B1

represent a huge increase from the $6.4 billion (7.5 percent of GDP) shortfall in 2004.

In scaling down the trade outlook, the government also took into account the snags to export growth arising from higher production costs which, in turn, was caused by soaring oil prices and interest rates, as well as a possible clamor for higher wages.

Also, the country's import spending is seen to grow by 9 percent this year and next year due to higher oil prices, as well as purchases of capital goods and raw materials to support exports.

Despite the weaker trade position expected for this year and next year, the BSP expects the current account to remain in surplus, resulting in a balance of payments position surplus of at least $900 million for this year and next year.

The government also expects more investments to come in and benefit the export sector, as well as funds for infrastructure projects that will improve the shipment of locally made goods to offshore markets.

Last year, export earnings grew by 9.6 percent to $38.7 billion from a year ago, while import spending likewise expanded by 10.6 percent to $45.1 billion.

Based on latest government data, August exports rose by a meager 0.8 percent year on year to $3.458 billion, bringing the eight-month export earnings to $26.36 billion—4.1 percent higher than a year ago.

Earlier, the DBCC slashed the government's 2006 GDP growth target to a range of 5.7-6.3 percent on account of soaring oil prices. The inflation rate outlook was raised to 8-8.5 percent.

For this year, the DBCC jacked up the inflation rate target to an average of 7.9 percent from the original forecast of 5-6 percent.

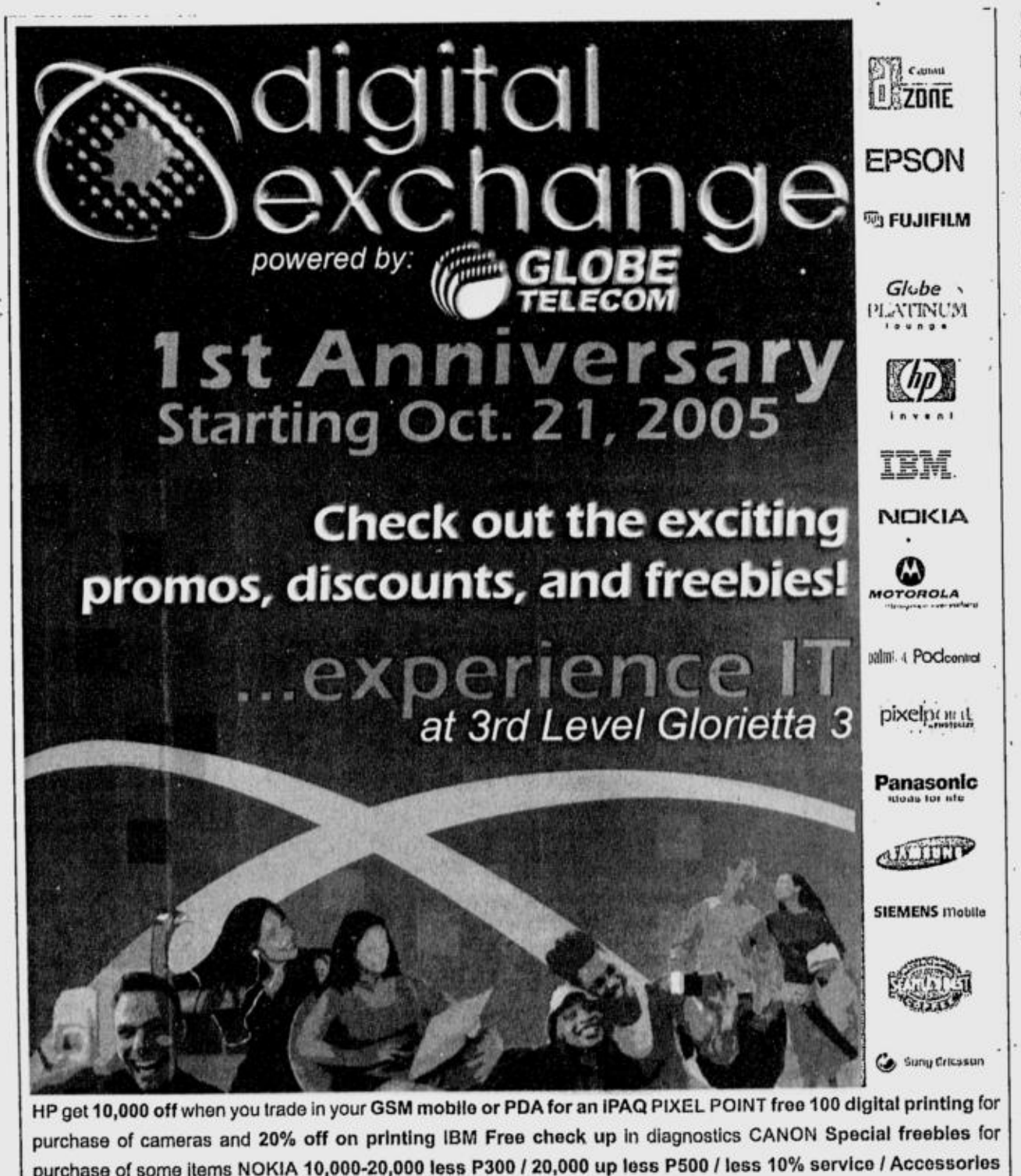
The original GDP growth forecast for this year was maintained at 5.3 percent.

New IC chief ...

From page B1

The federation said the objectivity and fairness of Escobillo in dealing with the pre-need industry was questionable, considering her background. The group pointed out that Escobillo was a consulting actuary of AGILE (Accelerating Growth Investment and Liberalization with Equity), which exposed insolvency and bankruptcy among pre-need firms.

The federation said the AGILE study, which was released sometime in the late 1990s, hurt and tainted the reputation of the pre-need industry.



Jollibee needs P1.7B to buy Red Ribbon

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FAST FOOD GIANT JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. may have to spend more than P1.7 billion to take over Red Ribbon Bakeshop Inc., a source said.

As of press time, the source said Jollibee was in the final stages of its examination of Red Ribbon's financial books and would likely close the deal soon.

Jollibee earlier agreed to buy Red Ribbon, including its operations here and in the United States.

Red Ribbon executive vice-president Jorge Concepcion yesterday told reporters that the company was expecting a 10-percent growth in sales in the current fiscal year ending June 2006.

Red Ribbon generated sales of P2.5 billion in fiscal year that ended June 30, 2005.

Concepcion said that of the amount, P1.6 billion was generated by Red Ribbon's roughly 130 store network in the Philippines and P900 million by its 16 stores in California.

From July to September, Red Ribbon said its sales grew by 5 percent.

Red Ribbon has an estimated debt of P100 million in the last fiscal year. The amount was used for expansion activities.

Red Ribbon expects to speed up its expansion in the United States.

Red Ribbon is planning to put-up three stores in the East Coast—in New York, New Jersey and in Virginia—to tap into the growing Filipino and Hispanic markets there.

Red Ribbon expects to set up these stores six to 12 months after the deal with Jollibee is finalized.

In the Philippines, Concepcion said it hopes to expand its store network by an additional six stores and 18 booths. Red Ribbon has so far put-up 17 booths and 1 store in the last three months. The company is spending roughly P70 to 80 million for its store expansion in the country this year.

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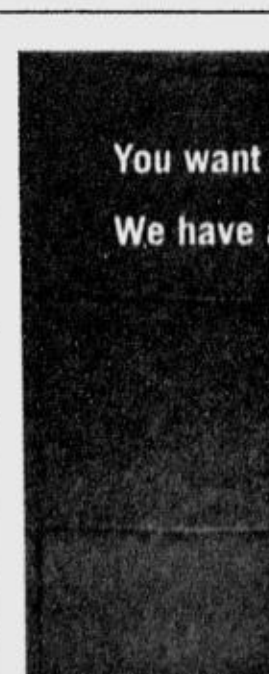

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The Institute of Internal Auditors - Philippines

58th ANNUAL CONVENTION

'The Internal Auditor: In the SPOTLIGHT'

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings of welcome to the officers and members of the Institute of Internal Auditors who have happily chosen Boracay Island as the venue of their 58th Annual Convention, October 19-21, 1005.

Indeed, the convergence of their 160 delegates during the three days is a big boost to our tourism industry.

Auditors – be they in government of the private sector – are a crucial component of our National development efforts. The maximal end prudent use of our country's meager resources as we endeavor to attain our nation-building objectives would depend on the competence and the integrity of our auditors.

Corruption is pandemic. It's not just in government but in private business as well, the bedrock of our economy, but with a corps of committed auditors steeped in correct values, we will ultimately realize our dreams of national prosperity. Best Wishes!

HON. CARLITO S. MARQUEZ
Provincial Governor, Province of Aklan, Kalibo, Aklan

As the 2005-2006 chairman of The IIA Board of Directors, I am honored to have the opportunity to send greetings and best wishes to you. Your 58th annual conference provides the perfect time to reflect on IIA-Philippines' rich and distinguished history, one that has focused on serving both your members and the profession of internal auditing with enthusiasm. Your formation more than half a century ago makes you one of The Institute's longest standing affiliates. Throughout your existence, you have exemplified our motto of "Progress through Sharing" attracting more than 1,000 members to your organization and achieving a consistently stellar retention rate. This serves as a true testament to the value you bring to the professional development of your members. On behalf of the more than 107,000 IIA members around the globe; I congratulate you on all of your accomplishments to date!

Your conference theme, *The Internal Auditor: In the Spotlight*, sheds light on the critical point at which we as internal audit professionals have reached in today's business arena. We are facing an intensely complex business environment that places ever-increasing demands in internal auditors. However, with great responsibility comes great reward. If we continue to keep our promise, as my chairman's theme suggests, and practice internal auditing in accordance with the Standards and our Code of Ethics, we will have served our communities and our profession as well.

Your organization's history of strong and unwavering commitment to propelling the profession forward is impressive. Earning the 2003 IMAP Award is just one example of your diligence. You should take tremendous pride in having worked so energetically to educate practitioners and the business community at large about issues relating to the internal audit profession. This conference is evidence of your commitment to ensure that internal auditing continues to play its rightful role in the business community within your region.

The dedication of your membership and the vision of your leadership have significantly contributed toward accomplishing The IIA's global objectives. You are a shining example of how we, as internal auditors, are rising to the challenge of today's demanding marketplace and "keeping our promise" to our stakeholders. I look forward to witnessing more growth and accomplishments of IIA-Philippines as your future unfolds. Enjoy the Conference!

THOMAS J. WARGA, CIA
2005 Chairman of the Board, IIA Inc.
Senior Vice President and General Auditor, New York Life Insurance Company

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"Magandang hapon"

On behalf of the Asian Confederation of the Institute of Internal Auditors, it gives me a great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to the IIA Philippines, sponsors, guest speakers, panelists, and participants of the IIA Philippines's 2005 Boracay Convention, being held at the beach capital of the Philippines from October 19 to 21.

It has been a year since I met many of you at the ACIIA conference in Cebu. It was a wonderful and rewarding experience to meet my fellow internal audit practitioners, academia, consultants and regulators in Philippines and friends from other Asian countries under the one roof. Once again we will have a great opportunity to share our knowledge, exchange our ideas, and learn from our experience so that we can all help our organization to achieve better corporate governance and risk management.

The theme for the last ACIIA conference was "Striking a Balance." I am exited to see how well all of our friends in the IIA Philippines have managed to strike your balance between professional and private life in last 12 months. I realized you should have been addressing the theme quite well since you are able to mix your education with fun at the beach resort of beautiful Boracay.

I will see you at the conference, and please do not hesitate to stop me for a chat or question at the conference as I am so exited to see all of you again.

Please enjoy the conference, and I wish the IIA Philippines a very successful conference.

NAOHIRO MOURI, CIA
President, Asian Confederation of the Institute of Internal Auditors

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The highlight of every president's term is the national convention which we hold each October. In my years with the Institute, we have moved the convention in various venues which represent the inherent warmth and hospitality of the Filipino. My work has brought me to interesting places all over the world but none could equal the serenity and the laid back ambiance of Boracay, truly a haven to hibernate, "sharpen our saw" and stay attuned to the developments in the internal audit profession.

This year's theme, "The Internal Auditor: In the Spotlight", captures the very essence of a profession which has been forced to emerge from the sidelines, step into the limelight and be counted as a proponent of corporate transparency, accountability and corporate control. It is a role that has never been so challenging and challenged by not one but many stakeholders. As the organizing committee and the Board of Directors of the Institute debated the various topics for the convention, we have only the internal auditor's best interest in mind. We want him to be ready for a rough ride ahead.

Topics that we have never even talked about like environmental audits, forensics and computer fraud, IT strategy, the impacts of regulatory requirements from other shores are just a flavor of what to expect. Our convention would never be complete if we are also not kept abreast of what management expects of us in this evolving times. We have invited some of our corporate tycoons and known business and government personalities to give us their thoughts about our profession. A filling finale to the convention is the topic "Humor at Work". Filipinos are probably the most resilient of all nations. We can laugh off our problems and at ourselves.

I welcome everyone to this year's National convention in Boracay specially our friends from the region. I am flattered by their interest to come back to our shores and grace our convention. My special thanks go to the members of the organizing committee, the board of directors and the secretariat who worked very hard to put the program and events together.

Actively participate in the technical sessions and enjoy the beaches of Boracay while networking with colleagues and new found friends. Together as a profession, my hope is that we can weather the rough ride ahead.

Warmest Welcome to all,

ROSSANA S. JAVIER, CPA, CIA, CCSA, CFE
2005 President, IIA - Philippines
Partner, Isla, Lipana & Co.

On behalf of the Convention Committee, it gives us pleasure to welcome the sponsors, delegates, speakers and guests to the 58th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors – Philippines in this beautiful island of Boracay, Aklan Province.

This most anticipated yearly gathering has been a venue in sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, benchmarking and renewing and making new friends in the profession. For this year, the convention committee has organized a meaningful and stimulating program with distinguished keynote speakers, relevant topic presentations from acclaimed local and foreign speakers who are experts in their fields, social events and to be concluded by a tour of the island. Discussions will focus on important issues such as Sarbanes Oxley and corporate governance, treasury risk management, control self assessment (CSA), fraud and computer forensics, environmental, health and safety standards, management's expectations on Internal Audit, a special topic on IT, soft skills and a presentation on the Asian Region developments in IA, among others.

The theme "Internal Auditor in the Spotlight" aptly describes the eminence that the practitioners and the profession have attained. We're seeing internal auditors becoming much more proactive. We rely on internal auditors as being integral to the company, as skilled experts in the art of internal controls. We've been telling audit committees "rely on us to tell you what the risks are and to give you the controls to mitigate those risks. We've been telling management that we can provide assurance that systems are in place and working. Now that we've created the expectation, we've got to be able to live up to the demand for it.

As chairman, it is my wish that from the lessons we get in this convention all participants may be able to internalize the most important part of our fundamental role which is to provide the organization with assurance on governance, risk management and internal control processes.

Once again, I would like to welcome all of you and may you have a rewarding and pleasant stay in Boracay.

AMADOR A RACPAN, MBA, CPA, CIA, CFSA
Chairman, 2005 Annual Convention
Assistant Vice-President, Philam Life Insurance Company

The SPOTLIGHT will be focused on 150 internal auditors as they converge in the sparkling and magnificent beaches of Boracay for the 58th Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors – Philippines. In what is becoming a progressively fast-paced and evolving business environment, internal audit practitioners need a stimulating haven, far from the hassles of city life, to "sharpen their saw". From October 19 to 21, the Boracay Regency will play host to internal audit professionals as they reflect on their critical role as assurance specialist and consultants to Management and the Audit Committee.

The CAMERA is poised to capture subject matter experts who will engage participants in recent practices guidance, insights and issues. The likes of David Rule, Constancio Ongpin, Leonardo Matignas, Jr., Christian Lauron, Leandro Bautista, Joseph Ostermann, Greg Vallejera, Jr., Leandro Severino and Rossana Javier can all be counted to "deliver the goods" on the podium. They will surely razzle-dazzle the audience with topics on forensics and computer fraud, developments on Sarbanes Oxley and control self-assessment, information technology's link to business strategy and internal audit, environmental auditing, treasury risks and internal audit implications of compliance to the new International Accounting Standards.

Topping the extravaganza of speakers is none other than ACIIA President Naohiro Mouri, who will update participants on matters pertaining to IIA, Inc. and regional IIA chapters. After all that savvy, participants will be given a full comic massage from two award-winning Toastmasters who will help internal auditors "add humor to their work".

More ACTIONS await convention partakers as IIA-P puts on center-stage those who recently hurdled the November 2004 and May 2005 examinations for Certified Internal Auditors, Certificates in Control Self-Assessment and Certified Financial Services Auditors. At sundown, IIA-P moves to the beat of Boracay's nocturnal exploits as it regales internal auditors with acoustic entertainment and a live band that will surely keep spectators jamming all night long, unless the allure o the beach hypnotizes them first! The final stroke will be an island expedition that is certain to cater to the adventurous palate of internal auditors.

The IIA-P conference has always been a unique experience that's designed to challenge the mind, jiggle the bones and pamper soul. The script is final and the scene all set. So, what are you waiting for? Let the show begin!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

By: Mary Jane O. Rosales, IIA-P VP – Professional Development
Petron Corporation

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2005 IIA-P Board of Directors thanks its members for the opportunity to lead the institute in facing the challenges of the profession. The ladies from left: Ana Luisa S. Lim, Internal Audit Head, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation; Edna G. De Leon, VP Chief Internal Auditor, Ruston Commercial Corporation; Susan S. Domingo, Audit Manager, International Container Terminal Services Inc; Helen T. De Guzman, VP & Head Corporate Audit & Compliance, MERALCO; Rossana S. Javier, Partner, Isla Lipana & Co.; Araceli E. Ona, AVP & Director for Audit & Mgt. Services Division, St. Luke's Medical Center; Richel D. Mendoza, Head Internal Audit/QA; The gentlemen from left: Raymund S. Mungkal, Chief Finance Officer, Ginebra San Miguel; Dante P. Soriano, Managing Partner, Soriano Soriano & Co.; Leonardo J. Matignas, Jr., Partner, SGV & Co.; Reginald C. Nery, Partner, KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co. ; Not in the picture: Michael C. Gallego, Manager SOX UK and Europe, Internal Control CEMEX UK, Mary Jane O. Rosales, Area Finance Officer, Petron Corporation; Lilian S. Linsangan, Partner, Punongbayan & Araullo, CPA's; Jun E. Nicanor, Controller & Asst. CFO, Hedcor, Inc.

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AM-MC-134a	Bo. Tangos, San Roque, Navotas	436 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-262159)	P 436,000.00
AM-MC-134b	Bo. Tangos, San Roque, Navotas	242 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-262158) with bldg. & imp.	P 242,000.00
AM-MC-135	Back of Phil. Columbian Sports Complex, Estero de Concordia, Quirino Ave., Paco	553 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-193707)	P 998,250.00
AM-ML-136	Lot 10 Blk 8, No. 5146 San Gregorio St., Brgy. T. De Leon, Valenzuela City	180 m² residential lot (TCT No. V-77215) with bldg. & imp.	P 510,000.00
BACOLOD			
AM-CP-137	National Road, Brgy. Sum-Ag Bacolod City	6,995 m², 2-adjoining comm'l/res'l lots (TCT Nos. T-182766 & T-182764) with bldg. & imp.	P 4,460,975.00
BAGUIO			
AM-ML-138	Bo. Lucban (Bo. Amblong), Baguio City	16,517 m², 2-adjoining interior vacant agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-79824 & T-79823)	P 15,000,000.00
BATAAN			
AM-DE-139	Daan Bilolo, Orion	2,037 m², 2-residential lots (TCT Nos. 135112 and T-135464)	P 783,900.00
BATANGAS			
AM-ML-140	Fortune Village, Brgy. Poblacion, Taysan	517 m², 2-adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. T-118605 & T-118606) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,966,900.00
AM-JA-141	Along National Road (near Sta. Anastacia Elem. School) San Rafael, Sto. Tomas	1,185 m² res'l/comm'l. lot (TCT No. T-93401) with bldg. & freezing equipment	P 3,276,500.00
AM-MC-142a	Liza Compound, Poblacion IV, San Roque, Sto. Tomas	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-89539) with bldg. & imp.	P 690,000.00
AM-MC-142b	Bo. San Felix, Sto. Tomas	1,072 m², 3-adjacent untilled residential lots (TD Nos. 009-01676 R, 09-1676 R & 009-01679) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,728,900.00
CAVITE			
AM-MC-143	Lot 8 Blk 10, Philhomes Villa I, Tactac, Cavite	32 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-1101607) with bldg. & imp.	P 138,400.00
AM-DE-144	Greenbreeze Subd. I, Lancaan, Dasmariñas	200 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-979115)	P 216,000.00
LAGUNA			
AM-MR-145	Lot 32 Blk 4, St. Joseph 6, Phase I, Brgy. Bulong, Cabuyao	40 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-616399) with bldg. & imp.	P 208,700.00
AM-ML-146	Along Bonifacio St., Brgy. Sto. Niño, Poblacion, Lumban	97 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-200169) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,420,000.00
NUEVA ECIJA			
AM-MC-147a	Palolan Subd., Abar 1st, San Jose	Residential lot	
AM-MC-147b	Lot - 118	263 m² TCT No. 12490	P 56,600.00
AM-MC-147c	Lot - 117	263 m² TCT No. 12491	P 56,600.00
AM-MC-147d	Lot - 88	160 m² TCT No. 12493	P 39,600.00
	Lot - 92	168 m² TCT No. 12465	P 38,600.00
ORMOC			
ORM-1a	Ablen Street, Ormoc City	428.44 m² comm'l-res'l/ind'l lot (TCT No. 45379) with bldg. & imp.	P 2,500,000.00
PAMPANGA			
AM-ML-148	Bo. San Juan, Macabebe	1,463 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 179970-R)	P 444,900.00
RIZAL			
AM-PI-149	Jasmin St. Nuevas Hills Lakeview Subd., San Isidro, Angono	240 m², vacant residential lot (TCT No. 616234)	P 248,000.00
AM-ML-150	Jona St. Living Water Subd., Brgy. Quisao, Pililla	30 m² residential lot (TCT No. M-128489) with bldg. & imp.	P 211,800.00
TARLAC			
AM-MC-151	McArthur Highway, Bo. Estrada, Capas	25,155 m², 2-adjoining industrial lots (TCT Nos. 361740 & 361741) with bldg. & imp.	P 12,840,000.00
CHATTELS			
ORM-1b	Ablen Street, Ormoc City	5-units various printing machine and equipment	P 200,000.00
AM-ED-152	Brgy. Atangtan, Balanga City	Various marble processing machinery and equipment	P 8,000,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.
For inquiries, please call telephone numbers 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM and (053) 255-4485 for ORM.

(PDI – Oct. 19 & 20, 2005)

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Norte
CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Reference / Solicitation No.: 170204/006

The Local Government of Tagum City thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the hereunder stated item:

1. Four (4) units of latest Surplus, used & reconditioned 10-wheeler Yellow Body color Dump Trucks complete with brand new tires with one (1) brand new spare tire, brand new batteries, 10PDI 30 HP Engine – CXZ71J Model, 10 cu. meters – capacity dump box, single head light with LTO Registration, GSIS Insurance, VAT provisions, jack and tire wrench.

The approved budget is FOUR MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND PESOS P4,780,000.00) chargeable against LGU Development Loan

Calendar of Activities

	Particulars	Date/Time	Venue
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents :	October 31, 2005	BAC Secretariat
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	November 4, 2005 – 2:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
3.	Dropping of Bids	November 14, 2005 – 8:00-12:00 Noon	BAC Secretariat
4.	Opening of Bids	November 14, 2005 – 2:00-5:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
5.	Bid Evaluation	November 15, 2005	ABC Conference Hall
6.	Post Qualification	November 16, 2005	ABC Conference Hall
7.	Notice of Award	November 17, 2005	ABC Conference Hall

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount fixed by the Bids and Awards Committee. All bids shall be accompanied with a bid security equivalent to 1% for CASH Bond based on the TOTAL AMOUNT of the APPROVED BUDGET of the items.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat office at telephone numbers, 084-218-3639, 084-218-2349 or visit the Secretariat Office at 2nd floor of SP Building, Bonifacio St., Tagum City.

The Bids and Awards Committeé a.) reserves the right to reject any or all bids: b.) waive any defect or formality; c.) declare failure of bidding if there is *prima facie* evidence of any prohibited act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies any or all bidding procedures to the disadvantage of the government; d.) assumes no obligation whatsoever to indemnify the bidder(s) for any expense that they may incur in the preparation of their bids; and e.) to accept only such bid(s) established to be the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLAND G. TUMANDA
BAC Chairman
Acting City Legal Officer

(PDI – October 14 & 20, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084)
FAX. NO. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA, REGION VIII

The National Food Authority, Regional Office VIII, Pawing Palo, Leyte invites qualified grains cargo handling service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid fro provision of handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Region VIII for the Calendar Year 2006 in the following provinces with their Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE	EST. VOL.TO BE HANDLED (BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTACT
1	N. Leyte	Port Area, Alangalang, Ormoc	744,500	P 2,692,800.00
2	S. Leyte	Maasin, Baybay & Hilongos	213,400	P 788,040.00
3	Biliran	Naval	182,000	P 676,800.00
4	W. Samar	Catbalogan & Calb.	670,600	P 2,415,960.00
5	N. Samar	Bobon, Rawis, Gamay & Catubig	396,000	P 1,441,800.00
6	E. Samar	Hindang, Oras & Guiuan	411,000	P 1,718,280.00
		TOTAL :	2,617,500	P 9,733,680.00

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC) Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3, 000.00).

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Registration, Eligibility & Bid Documents	Oct. 24-Nov. 3, 2005	8:00AM to 5:00PM
Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents	November 7, 2005	5:00PM
Issuance of Certificate of Registration & Notice of Eligibility	November 14, 2005	8:00AM to 5:00PM
Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	November 15, 2005	2:00PM
Submission & Opening of Bids (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	November 29, 2005	9:30AM

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective Bidder Owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and in behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority or to the Government.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager/
Charman-RBAC, NFA-RO8

(PDI Oct. 20 & 26, 2005)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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MANILA

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BULACAN

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BUSINESS DOCTOR 524-3197 0919-3227420

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CAVITE

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTL8 1BR FURN 11T 9299835

MANILA

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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

NORMITA Y. GAMIS,
Petitioner,
- versus -
EUTROPIA GAMIS,
Respondent,
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor,
x----------x

SSS CASE NO. 3-15662-04

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TO : EUTROPIA GAMIS
GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given than on the 28th day of September 2005, a RESOLUTION, consisting of 4 pages, was promulgated in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

"WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, this Commission finds, and so holds, that respondent Eutropia Gamis, although designated as wife and beneficiary of the late Leodegario B. Gamis in his SSS record, is disqualified as primary beneficiary of the member since she is not legally entitled to receive support from the member at the time of his death.

On the other hand, petitioner Normita Gamis is also disqualified as primary beneficiary since she is only the common-law wife of the deceased member.

Consequently, the deceased member's two (2) children with the respondent, namely: Maria Lea Gamis and Leodimer Gamis (adopted son) and his three (3) illegitimate children with the petitioner, namely: Neriza, Leoncia and Dandred Gamis, despite being all of major age, are entitled to the lump sum death benefit in their capacity as other designated secondary beneficiaries of the member pursuant to Section 13, in relation to Section 8 (k) of R.A. no. 8282.

Accordingly, the SSS is ordered to immediately process and pay the lump sum death benefits to the aforementioned secondary beneficiaries of the deceased member, subject to its existing rules and regulations, and to inform this Commission of its compliance herewith.

SO ORDERED."

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - Oct. 20, 2005)

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of ate RODOLFO EXCONDE CARRILLO was settled extra-judicially by way of a Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement executed in Makati City on October 6, 2005 by his heirs. The Deed has been acknowledged before Aris L. Gulapa a Notary Public in and for Makati City on October 6, 2005 and entered in his notarial register as Doc No. 353 Page No. 72 Book No. I Series of 2005.
PDI-Oct. 13, 20 & 27, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Francisco S. Que has been extrajudicially settled by their legal heir as per Doc. 056, Page 91, Book 09, Series 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Elmer A. Galicia of Mandaluyong (PDI-Oct. 13, 20, & 27, 2005)

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Sales Secretary 687-7009

MALE/FEMALE

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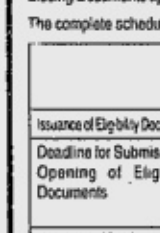
Masseur/Masseus 914-1057

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.



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National Transmission Corporation

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT PARTS
PB050720-AA0076/PR#ATO-05-010423

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of Php 3,661,480.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for PR No. ATO-05-0104235/Supply and Delivery of Aircraft Parts. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Aircraft Parts. Delivery of the GOODS is required *30 days after receipt of Approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from October 18, 2005 to November 23, 2005 the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 09, 2005 / 10:00 A.M. at the address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 24, 2005 / 10:00 A.M.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount or equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Amount	
	Schedule I	Schedule II
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1%)	Php 32,824.90	Php 3,789.90
2. Bank guarantee (1.5%)	Php 49,237.35	Php 5,684.85
3. Surety bond (2.5%)	Php 82,062.25	Php 9,474.75
4. Foreign government guarantee (100%)	Php 3,282,490.00	Php 378,990.00

8. Bid opening shall be on November 24, 2005 / 10:00 A.M. at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armand N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
NPC-OBC, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812205 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – October 20, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

INFRA STRUCTURE PROJECTS AT THE RELOCATION SITE OF PRISON AND PENAL FARM IN UPPER BUNGUIAO/UPPER CURUAN, ZAMBOANGA CITY

1. Construction of One (1) Unit Duplex Residential Building
2. Construction of One (1) Unit Administration Building
3. Construction of One (1) Unit Prison Dormitory Building

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the following sum being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the aforesaid projects, to wit:

Construction of One (1) Unit Duplex Residential Building	P 1,848,633.25
Construction of One (1) Unit Administration Building	P 5,021,237.12
Construction of One (1) Unit Prison Dormitory Building	P 8,211,549.90

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

ZCSEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the aforesaid projects. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents upon payments of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Construction of One (1) Unit Duplex Residential Building	Construction of One (1) Unit Administration Building	Construction of One (1) Unit Prison Dormitory Building
Issuance of Eligibility Documents	November 2-8, 2005	November 2-8, 2005	November 2-8, 2005
Deadline for Submission & Opening of Eligibility Documents	November 15, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	November 16, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	November 17, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 22-25, 2005	November 22-25, 2005	November 22-25, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	December 1, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	December 1, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	December 1, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.
Submission, Receipt, & Opening of bids	December 12, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	December 13, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.	December 14, 2005 10:00 AM, AVR, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Building, Z.C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative who choose to attend at the address and date stated above

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Manager's Check	One Percent (1%)
GSIS Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 1/2%)

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification

ZCSEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 27, 2005)

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FORT WORTH DIVISION

In re
MIRANT CORPORATION, et al.,
Debtors.

Chapter 11 Case
Case No. 03-46590(DML)11
Jointly Administered

NOTICE OF (A) SOLICITATION OF VOTES TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE SECOND AMENDED JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF REORGANIZATION FOR MIRANT CORPORATION AND ITS AFFILIATED DEBTORS, (B) HEARING TO CONSIDER CONFIRMATION OF THE SECOND AMENDED JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF REORGANIZATION FOR MIRANT CORPORATION AND ITS AFFILIATED DEBTORS AND (C) DEADLINE FOR FILING OBJECTIONS TO THE SECOND AMENDED JOINT CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF REORGANIZATION FOR MIRANT CORPORATION AND ITS AFFILIATED DEBTORS

TO ALL CREDITORS OR SHAREHOLDERS OF THE DEBTORS HOLDING EQUITY INTERESTS THAT ARE IMPAIRED UNDER THE PLAN AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on September 30, 2005, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division (the "Court") signed the order (the "Order") approving the disclosure statement (the "Disclosure Statement") with respect to the Second Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for Mirant Corporation and its Affiliated Debtors (the "Plan") filed by Mirant Corporation and its affiliated debtors (collectively, the "Debtors"). Pursuant to the Order, solicitation materials consisting of a CD-ROM containing a copy of the Disclosure Statement, the Plan and all exhibits thereto, and a paper ballot for the purpose of voting to accept or reject the Plan have been mailed to all known holders of impaired claims and equity interests against the Debtors entitled to vote on the Plan. If you are a holder of an impaired claim against the Debtors and have not received the foregoing solicitation materials, you may obtain the same by request to Bankruptcy Services, LLC, at 1-866-316-7766. Additionally, the Plan and Disclosure Statement are available at http://www.txnb.uscourts.gov and http://www.mirant-caseinfo.com. Paper copies of the Disclosure Statement and Plan will be provided only to those holders of claims or equity interests (i) that can establish by written request that receiving a CD-ROM imposes a hardship or (ii) who purchase a paper copy of the Disclosure Statement and Plan for the cost of $50 per copy. Please contact Bankruptcy Services, LLC at 1-866-316-7766 for information regarding submission of a written notice of hardship or how to purchase a paper copy of the Disclosure Statement and Plan.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that except as set forth in the next paragraph, all ballots cast to accept or reject the Plan must be properly completed, executed and mailed or delivered to the Debtors' Solicitation and Tabulation Agent at P.O. Box 5014, F.D.R. Station, New York, NY 10150-5014, Attn: Mirant Ballot Tabulation, so that they are ACTUALLY RECEIVED no later than 4:00 p.m., Prevailing Central Time, on November 10, 2005. If your ballot is not properly completed or received by such time, it will not be counted as a vote to accept or reject the Plan. Ballots transmitted by facsimile, telecopy transmission or electronic mail will not be accepted and will not be counted as a vote to accept or reject the Plan.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if you hold your claim or interest beneficially through a trustee, agent bank, broker dealer or other agent or nominee (a "Voting Nominee"), you may receive your solicitation materials, including your ballot (a "Beneficial Holder Ballot"), directly from such Voting Nominee. All Beneficial Holder Ballots cast to accept or reject the Plan must be properly completed, executed and returned to the Voting Nominees in such manner to allow sufficient time for the Voting Nominees to process such votes on "Master Ballots" and mail or deliver such Master Ballots to the Debtors' Solicitation and Tabulation Agent so that they are ACTUALLY RECEIVED no later than 4:00 p.m., Prevailing Central Time, on November 10, 2005.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Court has fixed December 1, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. (Prevailing Central Time) as the date and time for the hearing to consider confirmation of the Plan and related matters (the "Confirmation Hearing"). The Confirmation Hearing will be held before the Honorable D. Michael Lynn, United States Bankruptcy Judge, United States Courthouse, 501 W. Tenth Street, Fort Worth, Texas. The Confirmation Hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice other than announcement made at the Confirmation Hearing or any adjourned hearing.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that objections, if any, to the confirmation of the Plan must be in writing, and must (a) state the name and address of the objecting party and the nature and amount of the claim or interest of such party, (b) state with particularity the basis and nature of each objection to confirmation of the Plan, and (c) be filed, together with proof of service, with the Court and served so that they are received no later than 4:00 p.m., Prevailing Central Time, on November 10, 2005, by the Court, and the following parties: (i) White & Case LLP, Co-Attorneys for the Debtors and Debtors-in-Possession, 200 South Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 4900, Miami, Florida 33131, Attention: Thomas E Lauria, Esq.; (ii) Andrews & Kurth, L.L.P., 450 Lexington Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, New York 10017, Attention: Paul N. Silverstein, Esq.; (iii) Shearman & Sterling LLP, 599 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022-6069, Attention: Fredric Sosnick, Esq.; (iv) Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, One World Financial Center, New York, New York 10281, Attention: Bruce R. Zirinsky, Esq.; (v) Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, 120 West 45th Street, New York, New York 10036, Attention: Edward S. Weisfelner, Esq.; (vi) Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, 3000 Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm Street, Suite 3000, Dallas, Texas 75201, Attention: Richard M. Roberson, Esq.; and (vii) The Office of the United States Trustee, Earle Cabell Federal Building, 1100 Commerce Street, Room 976, Dallas, Texas 75242, Attention: George F. McElreath.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Court has fixed November 30, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. (Prevailing Central Time) as the date and time for the pre-Confirmation Hearing status conference (the "Plan Status Conference"). The Plan Status Conference will be held before the Honorable D. Michael Lynn, United States Bankruptcy Judge, United States Courthouse, 501 W. Tenth Street, Fort Worth, Texas. All parties who intend to participate in the Confirmation Hearing must appear at the Plan Status Conference.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Debtors intend to file the Schedule of Assumed and Assumed and Assigned Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases as Schedule 12 to the Disclosure Statement (as may be supplemented from time to time prior to the entry of an order confirming the Plan) (the "Assumption Schedule") with the Court setting forth the list of executory contracts and unexpired leases to be assumed, or assumed and assigned, by the Debtors pursuant to the Plan. Unless otherwise provided in the Plan or otherwise listed on the Assumption Schedule, all executory contracts and unexpired leases of the Debtors not previously assumed by the Debtors, including, but not limited to, those agreements listed and described in the "Schedule of Rejected Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases" attached as Schedule 11 to the Disclosure Statement (as may be supplemented from time to time prior to the entry of an order confirming the Plan), shall be rejected by the Debtors, as of the effective date of the Plan, pursuant to the provisions of section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code. Any claims arising from the rejection of an executory contract or unexpired lease must be asserted in accordance with the terms of the Plan or such claims will be forever barred and unenforceable against the Debtors, New Mirant, their respective Affiliates, or the Assets (each, as defined in the Plan).

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Plan provides that substantially all of the Assets of Mirant will be transferred to New Mirant, a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware, which will serve as the corporate parent of the Debtors' business enterprise on and after the effective date of the Plan. Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, New Mirant shall not have, and shall not be construed to have or maintain, any liability, claim, or obligation that is based in whole or in part on any act, omission, transaction, event, other occurrence or thing occurring or in existence on or prior to the effective date of the Plan (including, without limitation any liability or claims arising under applicable non-bankruptcy law as a successor to Mirant) and no such liabilities, claims, or obligations for any acts shall attach to New Mirant.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Plan provides that the trading and marketing business of Mirant Americas Development, Inc., Mirant Americas Production Company, Mirant Americas Energy Marketing, LP, Mirant Americas Retail Energy Marketing, LP, Mirant Americas Gas Marketing I - XV, LLC (collectively, the "Trading Debtors") shall be transferred to Mirant Energy Trading LLC ("MET"), a Delaware limited liability company. Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, MET shall not have, and shall not be construed to have or maintain, any liability, claim, or obligation that is based in whole or in part on any act, omission, transaction, event, other occurrence or thing occurring or in existence on or prior to the effective date of the Plan (including, without limitation any liability or claims arising under applicable non-bankruptcy law as a successor to the Trading Debtors) and no such liabilities, claims, or obligations for any acts shall attach to MET.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Plan contains an injunction which, with certain exceptions, permanently enjoins any holder of any claim (other than holders of Allowed MAG Long-term Note Claims) or equity interest from, among other things, taking any of the following actions against or affecting New Mirant and its Affiliates, the Debtors and the Estates (as defined in the Plan), the Assets, or the Disbursing Agent under the Plan (as defined in the Plan), or any of their current or former respective members, directors, managers, officers, employees, agents, and professionals, successors and assigns or their respective assets and property with respect to such claims or equity interests (other than actions brought to enforce any rights or obligations under the Plan): (i) commencing, conducting or continuing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any suit, action or other proceeding of any kind; (ii) enforcing, levying, attaching, collecting or otherwise recovering by any manner or means, whether directly or indirectly, any judgment, award, decree or order; (iii) creating, perfecting or otherwise enforcing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any encumbrance; and (iv) asserting any setoff, right of subrogation or recoupment of any kind. In addition, except as provided in the Plan, upon the occurrence of the effective date of the Plan, the Debtors shall be discharged from all claims and causes of action to the fullest extent permitted by section 1141 of the Bankruptcy Code, and, except as otherwise provided in the Plan, all holders of claims and equity interests shall be precluded from asserting against New Mirant and its Affiliates, the Debtors, the Assets, or any property dealt with under the Plan, any further or other cause of action based upon any act or omission, transaction, event, thing, or other activity of any kind or nature that occurred or came into existence prior to the effective date of the Plan.

Dated: Miami, FL
September 30, 2005

By /s/ Thomas E Lauria
Thomas E Lauria
State Bar No. 11998025
WHITE & CASE LLP
Wachovia Financial Center
200 South Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, Florida 33131
(305) 371-2700

-and-

Robin Phelan
State Bar No. 15903000
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street
Suite 3100
Dallas, TX 75202
(214) 651-5000

ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEBTORS AND DEBTORS-IN-POSSESSION

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5131 Fax 8401461

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Lighting Works at Building 3, 4A and 4B under EDC 05-166

The Approved Budget is PHP 3,010,231.47 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 40 calendar days.

Application forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o M. C. Unbo) **starting October 20, 2005, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (PHP500.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held **on October 28, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the BAC Room, 1st Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila.**

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOC-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. of (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of November 9, 2005** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered the most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 20, 2005)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, TaguigCity
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

1 Lot of Calcite Inhibition Chemicals under FGM 50314
Approved Budget: PHP 5,100,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **October 19, 2005** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 27, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box there at not later than **2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Wall Clock Time) of November 10, 2005.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI--Oct. 20 & 27, 2005)

Manila Memorial Park
Inviting the Living
SUCAT
HOLY CROSS
DASMARINAS
CEBU
DAVAO
(632) 515 1875 to 80
(632) 893 3374 to 77
BULACAN

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Memories Expo: An Expo for the Death Care Industry

AS ALL SOULS DAY NEARLY APPROACHES, the Philippine Daily Inquirer together with the City Government of Manila presents the "Memories Expo," an exhibit specially organized to bring together different products and services related to the death care industry. The event is organized to coincide with the publication of Memories 2. The expo will feature different companies and showcase their services to the public from funeral parlors, pre-need plans, florists, grief counseling, columbarium, memorial parks, catering, NGOs and suppliers from candles, coffins, tombstones, urns, etc. We invite everyone to visit the exhibitor's booths and get to know the latest trends and information. This two day event shall be held on October 25 and 26 at the Bonifacio Shrine (beside Manila City Hall).

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Filemon "Slim" Torres

Filemon "Slim" Torres, noted for his palette-knife paintings of Philippine scenes, passed away on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at the age of 81.

Born in November 22, 1923 in Mandaluyong City, "Slim" was one of the pioneers of the Philippine advertising industry during the post-war era. He devoted himself to full-time painting after having worked as an art director for leading advertising agencies such as Philprom and Adver, Inc.

He is survived by his wife, the former **Isabel Crowley** and five children, **Gilbert, Helen Grace, George Filemon, James Ismael** and **Katherine Isabel.**

His remains lie in state at Chapel C of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment is on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque.

Antolin L. Tiamsic

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 18, 2005 at the age of 71.

His remains lie in state at Chapel "C" Gardens of Memories Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be on Friday, October 21, 2005 after the 9:00 am Mass at Garden of Memories Memorial Park.

His family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"The Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Grace be with you. AMEN."
2 Timothy 4:22

MA. TIMOTHY LOPEZ – CASTRO "TIMI"

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 16, 2005 at the age of 36.

Loving wife of **Jake**, a devoted mother to her darling son **Martin**, a selfless & caring sister to **Pinky & Jimbo Aragon, Dinty & Paolo Gamboa & Vicky**. A doting aunt to **Chammy, Kooka, Bowie, Jao, Kat & Kiko Aragon** and **Pio & Pia Gamboa**.

Her remains lie in state at the Dao Chapel, La Funeraria Paz – Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque.
Interment will be on Friday, October 21, 2005 after the 9:00 AM Mass.

GLORIA ASERON-PUNZALAN

(Widow of the late Dr. Pedro H. Punzalan)

of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro and Calumpang, San Luis, Batangas
March 31, 1934 – October 19, 2005

Her children **Fr. Louie, SVD, Larry & Annabelle, Dr. Lilian & Manny, Dr. Luther & Dr. Joan, Leo & Leslie, Liza & Alex, Liani & Jason**; her mother **Natalia**; her brother **Rogelio**; grandchildren **Roseanne & Jay, Tintin & Herson, Camille, Cathleen, Bimboy, Bernice, Niña, Justin, Jolo, Issa, Lian, Mico, Conn & Calan** request relatives and friends to pray for Mama's everlasting reward.

Her remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Shrine Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 23, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 1:00 PM Mass of the Resurrection.

JULIANA LUZA VDA. DE LOS SANTOS

October 18, 1914 – October 17, 2005

She peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 90.

Her remains lie in state at the Narra Chapel (2278 Narra cor. Old Antipolo Street), Tondo, Manila.

There will be a Mass at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 22, 2005 prior to interment at the La Loma Cemetery, Caloocan City.

Her bereaved ones: **Roger and Carol, Bong** and **Lhen;** sisters **Filomena** and **Sister Deolindis;** grandchildren **Rogelio Jr., Ronaldo, Roderick, Caroline, Catherine, Robert, Rochelle, Rommel, and Camille; Ma. Lhorena, Wyne, Lorianne and William Jr.**

Patrocinio B. Valenzuela

US VETERAN
1931 - 2005

Has peacefully joined his Creator on October 18, 2005 at the age of 74

His loving wife (+)Alma L. Valenzuela;
Children: Edgar, (+)Regie and Jane, Lorna and Jun, Evelyn and Janice
Grandchildren: Jhan Regie, Patrisia & Cataline
Step-Grandchildren: Joyce, Chris, Tanya, Rocky & Mae
Sisters: Adelaida B. Andres, Corazon B. Valenzuela, Matilde B. Valenzuela
Nephews and Niece: Bladymire, Jim and Olive
other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 1 of the Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.
Interment will be on Saturday, October 22, 2005 at The Heritage Park after the 8am mass.

Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God" 2 Corinthians 4:14

ANTONIO B. PINEDA, JR.

was called home to the Lord on October 17, 2005 at the age of 55.

He shall be missed by his dearest wife **Luz**; children **Alvin** & **Cecil, Bong** & **Shienna, Anna** & **Eric**, and **Archie**; grandchildren **Trisha** & **Clarence**; siblings **Steve** & **Emy, Aniano** and **Olive, Linda** and relatives.

His remains lie in state at the Pineda residence in Sto Cristo Pulilan, Bulacan.

Interment will be on October 23, 2005 at the Manila Memorial-Tabang, Plaridel, Bulacan after the 1 PM Mass.

ROMEO DEOCAREZA GENETE

(August 16, 1955 - October 17, 2005)

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 17th day of October 2005 at the age of 50.

His bereaved parents **Andres & Eliza Genete**, wife **Rowena**, children **Rowella, Romilon, Rundel Mark** and **Jamiellie**; brothers and sisters; **Tessie & Ruben, Alexus & Mila, Lolita & Lilio**, and **Toto & Violy**; nephews and nieces; **Phot & Shake; Tanker & Marlyn, Irish & Ricky, Shell & Aju, Ron-Ron, Andro & Irene, Ryan, Princess, RJ, Erik, EJ, Jason, Oyen, Angel & Jan-Jan**; and grandchildren: **Kyla, Kaye, Andrei, Cecille** and **Ira** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 1357 Crisostomo Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at the North Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

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School of Saint Anthony celebrates its 23rd Foundation

THE SCHOOL OF SAINT ANTHONY WILL BE holding its 23rd Foundation Celebration on Oct. 20 to 24. This year's anniversary highlights various activities including a Thanksgiving Mass for the whole Antonian Community side by side with the Employees' Service Awards, Alumni Homecoming of the Wood, Tin and Steel Jubilarians, Interdisciplinary Week showcasing an alternative class program as well as an array of creative and fun activities in the different subject areas, and the Family Day festivity from preschool to high school.

These activities were organized to rekindle the embers of camaraderie, togetherness and unity as well as give emphasis to the school's advocacies and campaigns geared at helping our students become holistic individuals who are able to balance family, fund and learning. Special thanks to our dear parents, students, faculty and staff, FC 2005 Chairpersons and sponsors who have made this event possible.

VMMC to mark 50th year

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH anniversary of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), the Veterans Memorial Medical Center Medical Association, Inc., will be holding its 20th Post-Graduate Course on October 20-21 at VMMC's Valdez Hall, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. With the theme "Back to the Generals (The Basics of Medical Practice)", the course will cover the latest and best practice of commonly encountered disease-hypertension, diabetes mellitus, pneumonias (in children and adults), chronic obstructive pulmonary isease, bronchial asthma, urinary tract infection, allergeic rhinitis, and osteoarthritis, as well as a lecture on antithrombotic therapy, crime scene investigation and forensic serology. Among the top-calibre speakers are Drs. Abdias Aquino, Eric Jason Amante, Mamerto Bernabe, Bernadette B. Asin-Bringas, Jennifer T. Co, Luis Raymundo Go, Carlo John Manalo, Leonardo Manghas, Jr., Glenda Faye Pereira, and Jorge Sison. For details, please contact the course chairman and VMMCMA secretary, Dr. Grace Marie F. Blanco at OPD, VMMC, Tel. No. 927-6426 local 604 or any of the VMMC officers: Drs. Amadeo A. Alinea, Jr. (president), Rouel C. Aparato (VP), Susan Mateo (asst. sec.), Jose Angelo M. Vicente (treasurer), Alfredo C. Azarcon (asst. treasurer), Rosemary P. de Vera (auditor), and Francis Lo (PRO), tel. no. 927-6956.

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JOB Market

BUSINESS

Gov't scouts for new job markets abroad

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AT NEW and emerging job markets overseas in an effort to compensate for the potential loss of 55,000 jobs in Japan due to stricter rules affecting Filipino performance artists.

According to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the agency was pursuing new and additional opportunities to create 65,000 jobs and to reach its target of helping secure a million jobs overseas yearly for Filipinos.

Efforts are focused on Israel for caregivers, and tourism and construction workers; Macau for casino and hotel workers; Singapore and China for teachers; Australia, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago, and South Africa for healthcare workers.

Opportunities also abound in Turks and Caicos Islands for construction workers; Cayman Islands for restaurant workers; Bahamas for medical and skilled workers; United Kingdom for social workers and physical and occupational therapists; Iran for skilled workers, and Kazakhstan for technical and professional workers in the oil, energy and construction sectors, according to the POEA.

POEA Deputy Administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon said in a briefing that the new hires deployed in 2004 consisted of workers engaged in services, professional and technical jobs, production , clerical work, sales, agriculture, and those hired for administrative and managerial positions.

Dimzon said a total of 284,912 new hires were deployed last year, on top of the 648,676 workers returning to their old jobs abroad. She said Filipinos continued to be competitive in terms of technical competence, English proficiency, Western-oriented education and training, their caring attitude, and adaptability to a multicultural environment.

ROGER MARGALLO

TIGHTER rules in Japan may cost the jobs of thousands of Filipino performing artists.

However, she noted the following as some of the weaknesses of Filipino overseas workers: declining proficiency in English, declining quality of education and training, and are quick to go to third parties such as the courts to settle disputes with employers.

In a related development, the Department of Labor and Employment said at least 350 foreign employers from transnational companies in Taiwan, Australia, the Middle East, Japan, the Caribbean, Europe and North America would visit the country next month to meet with licensed recruitment agencies for the manpower needs.

A hiring conference called "First International Labor Opportunities Forum" would be held Nov. 8-11 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Napocor gives rate discounts to ecozones, distressed firms

By Abigail L. Ho

RESPONDING TO CALLS FOR MORE COMpetitive power rates for exporters, National Power Corp. has extended special rates to at least seven economic zones in the country.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said in a letter to Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino that Napocor had been offering special and competitive rates to these ecozones since August.

Benefiting from the lower power rates are the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales, the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, the Cavite Export Processing Zone, the Bataan Export Processing Zone, the Baguio City Export Processing Zone and the Mactan I and II Export Processing Zones in Cebu. Del Callar, however, did not disclose the rates given to the zones.

He said Napocor was also considering providing discounts to export-oriented enterprises located in industrial estates.

These special discounts, he said, would help boost the competitiveness of the country's export sector. However, the rates are subject to negotiations.

The move is Napocor's response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's order for different government agencies to support the country's export sector and help local exporters become more globally competitive.

Napocor is also offering special rates to distressed industries.

Gov't debt hit ₱3.93T in July

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S OUTSTANDing debt reached P3.93 trillion as of July this year.

Data from the Bureau of Treasury showed that the July debt figure reflected a 1.1-percent increase from the P3.89 trillion recorded in June. This was attributed to higher borrowings, particularly from domestic sources.

Of the total debt figure as of July, P2.081 trillion came from domestic sources. This was 2.2 percent up from P2.035 trillion in the previous month. ,

Domestic borrowings were made through the sale of Treasury bills and bonds.

Foreign debt stood at P1.851 trillion, representing a 0.3-percent decline from the P1.856 trillion recorded in June.

Of the foreign debt, 57 percent was raised through issuance of foreign-currency denominated securities. The rest came from multilateral and bilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Data showed that of the total national government debt as of July, 59.3 percent has long-term maturity, while 24.9 percent will mature in the medium term. Only 15.8 percent will mature in the short-term.

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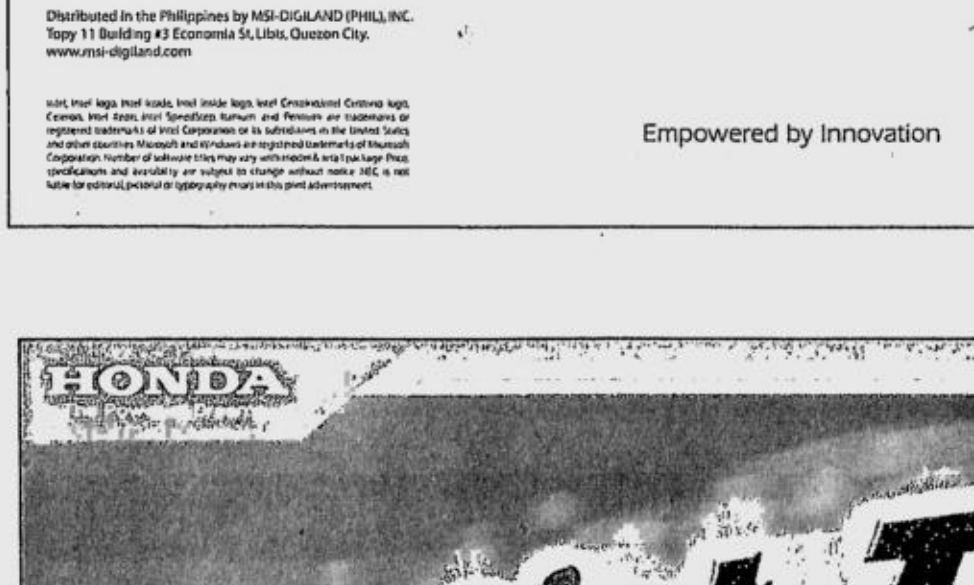

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

THE PRICELESS *diwal* (angel's wings) with scallops and other seafood at Aboy's

ABOY (Nestor Evaristo) uncovers his specialties.

Bacolod's restaurant row

Text and photos by Michaela Fenix

BUSINESS Inn's boiled vegetables or *laswa*

BACOLOD IS A LAND OF EATing. That's what struck me when someone asked where I was having lunch the day of our arrival. The natural response to that query is: What can you offer?

If you do ask that, then prepare to be overwhelmed with suggestions. And then you won't know where to go first and when to go.

Aboy's had been recommended even before we stepped off the plane. And there he was, Aboy himself, also known as Nestor Evaristo, waving at the gate and driving us to the hotel. Everyone asks what Aboy stands for and his ready answer is that when he was born, the nurse said, "It's a boy!"

There was no need for him to invite us twice. We willingly went to his restaurant to indulge in the best that Negros had to offer—fish, shellfish, native chicken barbecue.

It was the grilled squid that made me close my eyes and enjoy the moment. It was tender, still moist, tasting of freshness. How does one achieve that perfect grilled quality? Aboy said the charcoal should be really hot, then one side should be grilled until it looked cooked, after which the other side is grilled but only for half the time it took to cook the first side.

It's the same with fish. He explained that when you grill one side, the other side already starts cooking so you only need half the time.

As Aboy promised, we had *diwal* (angel's wings,) a shellfish that hardly gets to Manila. The white shell is shaped like an angel's wing and the meat has a delicate flavor, not as strong as that of clam or mussel. It was the tail end of the *diwal* season and we were indeed lucky to have had some.

Each piece of the *diwal* and fresh scallop was topped with fried garlic sauce. Though delicious, I would have preferred to have both without the topping because garlic can overwhelm and you miss the true flavors of the shellfish.

When one enters the screened portion of Aboy's Restaurant, there's a row of *kawali* (local wok) displaying the cooked food that day. We looked for what everyone said was the really special dish, squid fat cooked in squid ink (*adobo*). It was all gone either because everyone before us ordered it or because there weren't enough squid to squeeze the fat out of that day.

We ended with *durian* from the Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Farm. Bigger than the ones we had a few weeks earlier in Cotabato and Davao, it was a Thai variety, hardly smelly and less creamy. Little did we know that *durian* was not a fitting dessert for dinner as it made us even more full and therefore more awake than we wanted to be on our first evening. (Aboy's Restaurant Goldenfields Commercial Complex)

Adobo variation

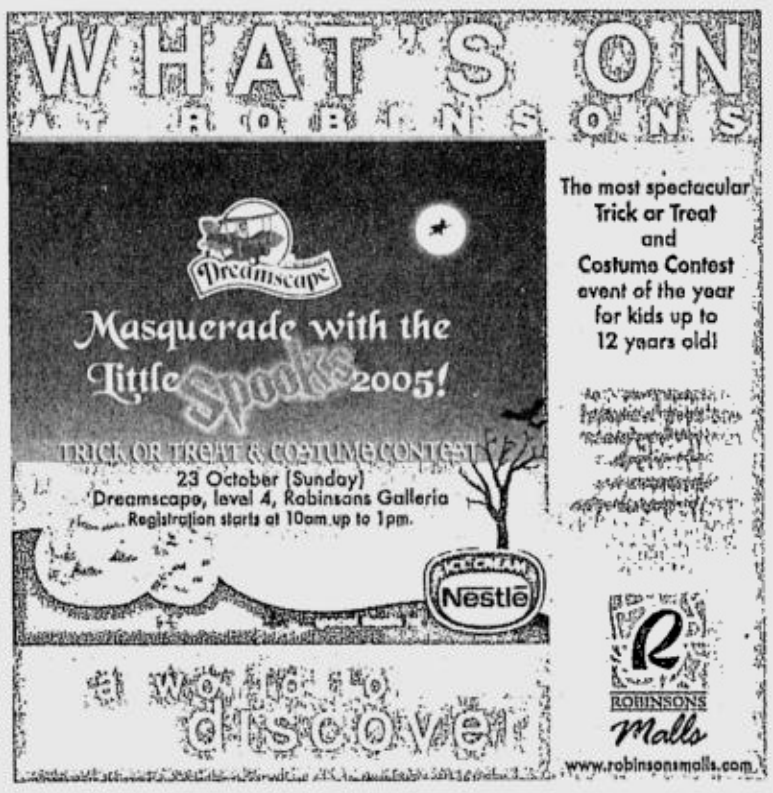
Since our visit was a working trip (for the Bacolod culinary competition, more on that next time), our lunches were stolen moments, breezed through for instant gratification. Someone suggested we should eat *pitaw*. And Business Inn was the place to taste *pitaw* , which is quail *adobo* that has been shredded then fried. It came on top of fried rice, crunchy, smelling divine.

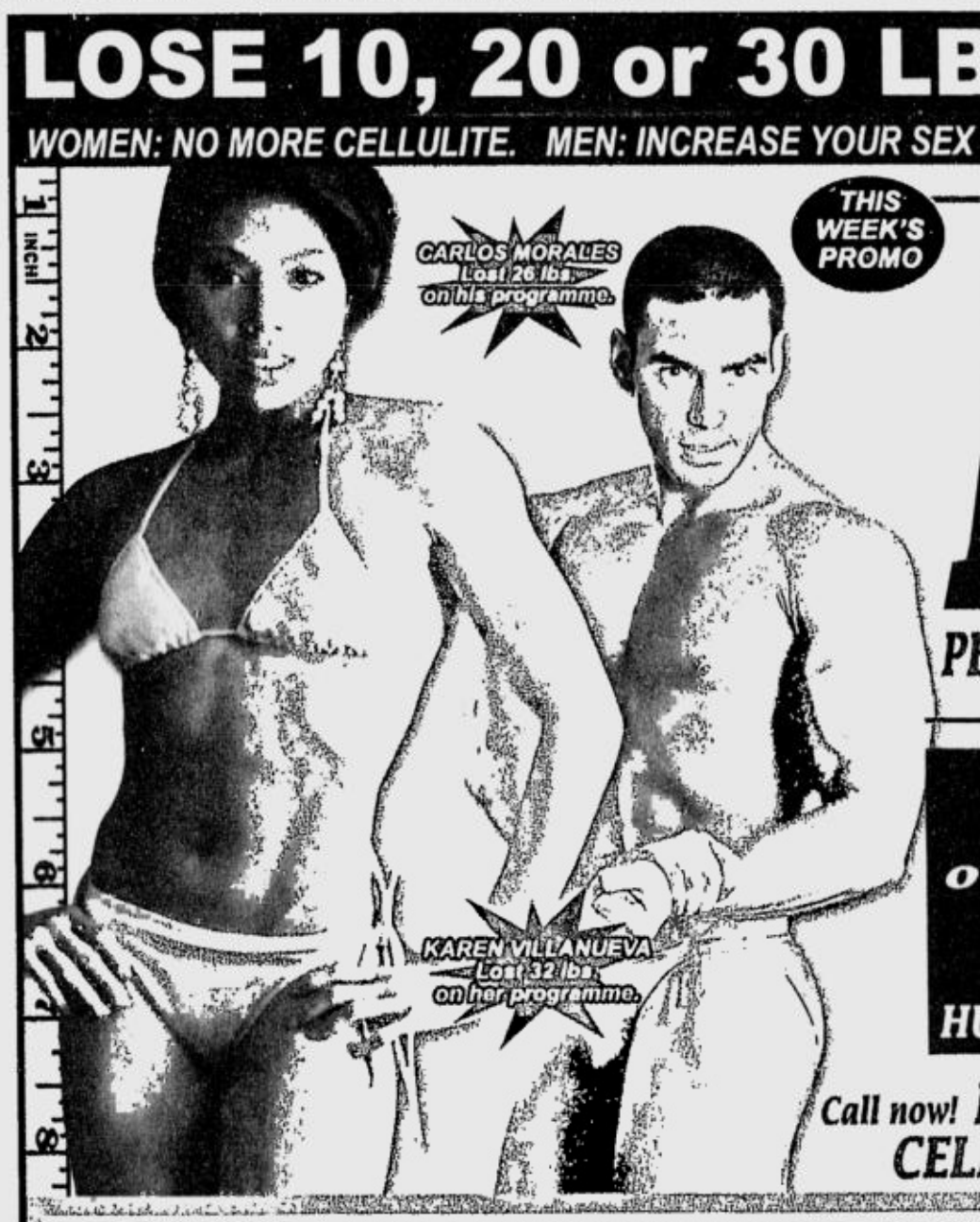
But it was the *laswa* —boiled vegetables with a bit of shrimp—that impressed me. It was clean-tasting with a hint of sweetness because the vegetables were fresh, probably just picked that day. We also tried *kansi*, the Negros version of the *bulalo*, or boiled beef shin. (Business Inn, Lacson Street)

Café Calea was highly recommended by our host, Ruth Minerva Cruz, for its pecan pie, which she described as a pie that made the *pili* nuts stick together in the yummiest way. And she was right. Yummy meant buttery, not too

BACOLOD'S/ C2

With all the possibilities,
you won't know where to go first
and when to go





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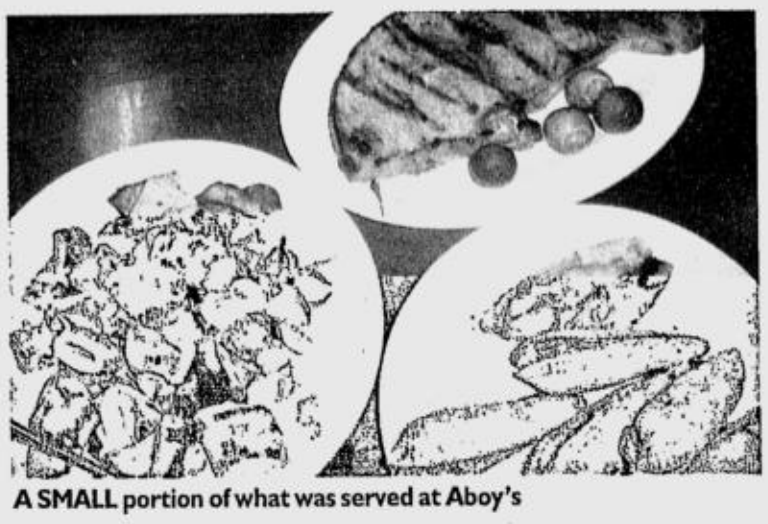
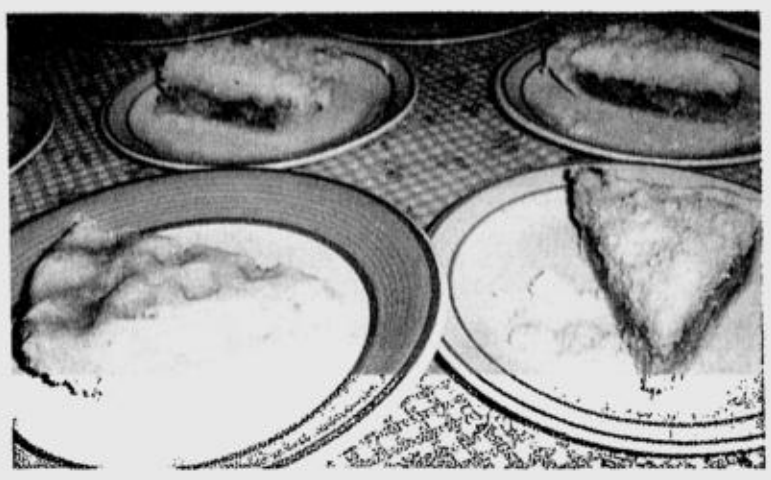
SAMPLING at Café Calea



A SMALL portion of what was served at Aboy's



SAMPLING the pies at El Ideal Bakery

Bacolod's restaurant row

From page C1

BOB and Cynthia Sicangco Magalona show off their pizza at Café Bob's.

DAING na bangus at The Quiet Place

sweet, lovely crust. Later, the cooks with us told Cruz that the sticky quality she liked in the pecan pie was Caro syrup. Not satisfied with just the pie, we went through baked cheesecake, lemon meringue and chocolate cake as well. (Café Calea, Lourdes C building, Lacson St.)

Inasal warehouse

Manokan Country is the warehouse of *inasal* chicken and shouldn't be missed because it has several versions of this essential Bacolod barbecue dish.

We entered Aida's at Manokan Country when the normal lunch hour had finished.

Our efficient waitress first wanted us to try the oysters parked near the entrance. Of course we wanted those and they were indeed wonderful.

Next, we ordered our chicken parts. The waitress knew we were Tagalog and couldn't understand terms like *baticolon* so she brought out samples of the parts on skewers. Our individual sticks arrived, all still hot off the grill so it was difficult to use our fingers. Those who ordered fried rice loved the fried garlic pieces on top. Those who didn't, put *achuete* oil on their plain rice, which was just as deadly because it's actually *inasal* fatty drippings collected in a bottle. Its nickname is CX3, because it looks like the motor oil. (Manokan Country, Reclamation Area)

Instant dessert was *bitsokoy* from a vendor at the door. It's *bitcho-bitcho*, or elongated doughnut, and it eased our sated taste buds. And then we went for a more extensive dessert at Pendy's.

It was Cruz's gift of napoleones a few weeks before that made Pendy's a must. Each piece has very delicate layers of pastry, a thin cream in between, then topped with white sugar icing. Not too sweet, the pieces melt in the mouth and so disappear right away.

The restaurant's interior was impressive—high ceiling, wrought-iron chairs, white tablecloth. Many Bacolod restaurants take pains to be beautifully designed. In Sugarland Hotel at Araneta Avenue, catching a glimpse of the coffee shop before going to a gala dinner, we were amazed by its very now look. The wall of sculptured waves reminded me of Felix at the Peninsula Hotel in Hong Kong.

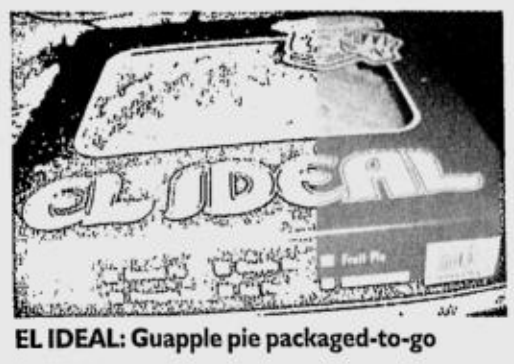
Pendy's Half Moon, a light cake with custard top, and prune cake were also sampled with good coffee served with hot milk that upped the restaurant's rating in my eyes. (25th corner Lacson Street)

Paris of Negros

After wrapping up the competition, Cruz brought us to Silay City for a mini tour of what was once regarded as the Paris of Negros. The old stately homes were seen in the dying sunlight that made the atmosphere more eerie. But always the best stop in Silay City is El Ideal, the landmark bakery that has been churning Negros favorites for the past 80 years. The building is how I remembered it from the last visit a decade ago but Negrenses tell me it looks like it has done ages ago.

Cabinets line one side of the wall and, in them, old-fashioned cookies that evoke memories of old *panaderias*—macaroon-shaped *pacencia*, crusty *biscocho*, white sugar-smeared *bañadas*. It's tempting to buy everything but there's always the lack of space in your luggage to hold you back.

The table was full of El Ideal specialties. The *buko* pie had layers of young coconut instead of the bits and pieces with lots of starch found elsewhere. The *lumpiang ubod*, said to have been invented in Silay, came cold from the refrigerator. And the bakery's best invention, the *guapple* pie, made from the guava-



EL IDEAL: Guapple pie packaged-to-go

apple fruit, seemed too sweet that day, the cheese on top lacking saltiness. (El Ideal Bakery Rizal Street, Silay City)

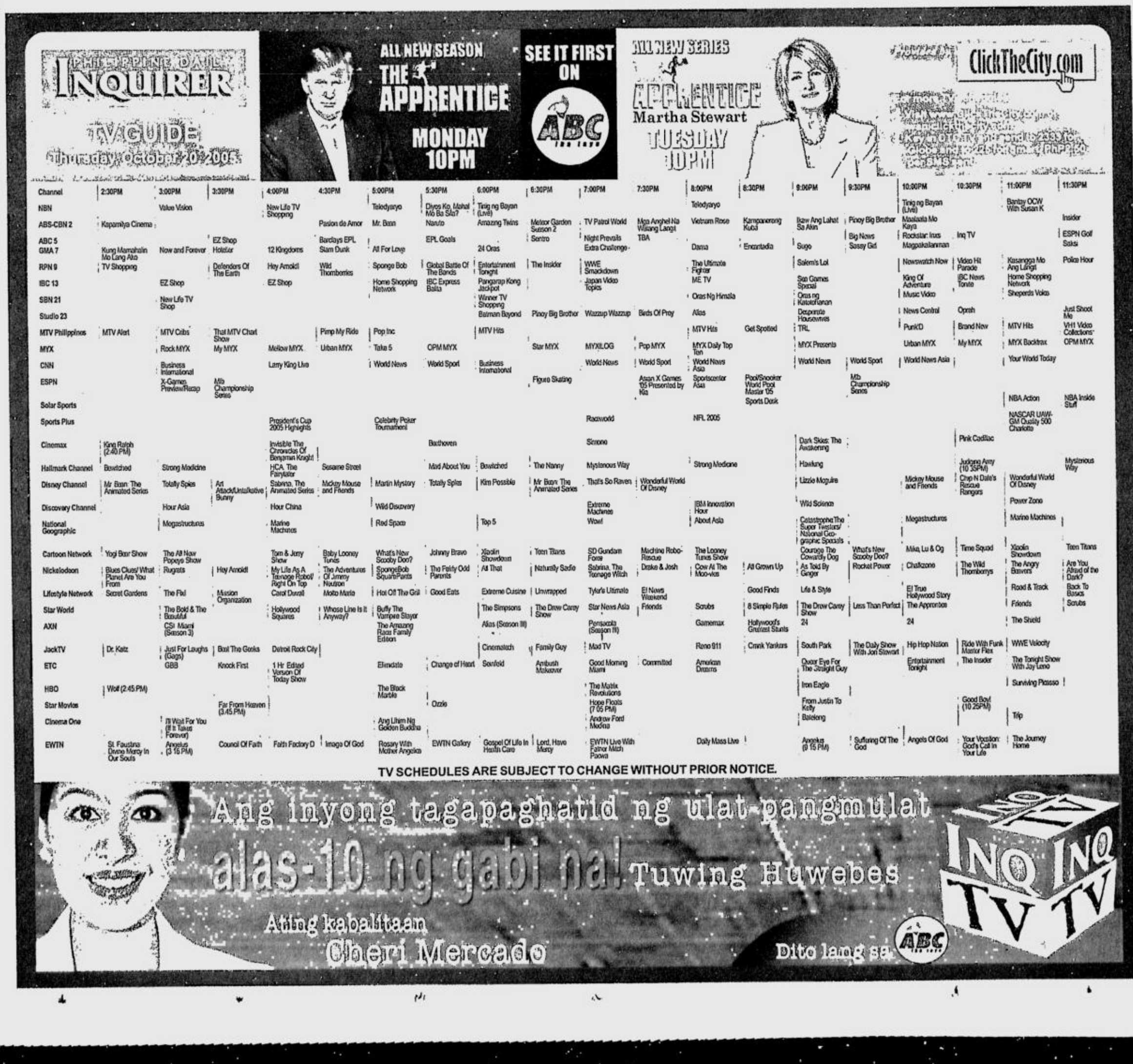
Too full

A late lunch and several stopovers for tasting made us too full to have dinner. We stopped by Café Bob's just to look at the place, being told it was the the place to go for pastries and coffee. We parked ourselves in the deli section. Just outside, the wood-burning oven-cooked pizzas.

Though we were full, the aroma of freshly done pizza was too tempting and so we tasted the melted cheese on thin crisp crust. We felt comfortable there, and the owners, Bob and Cynthia Sicangco Magalona, made sure we were. (Café Bob's, 21st Lacson Street)

Before our flight back the next day, we had breakfast at The Quiet Place in Bago, 20 minutes outside Bacolod City. It's a farm with a spa with rice fields lining the road going to the receiving area. We walked through the pathway lined with trees, orchids and other flowers going toward the coffee shop. It was hardly quiet but the noise was welcome—the chirping of birds. *Daing na bangus*, *beef tapa*, mangoes, papaya and coffee would sustain us through a late lunch compounded by a delayed flight. (The Quiet Place Farm Resort Barangay Tabunan, Bago City)

There were other recommendations which we had no time for but we made a mental note to try them the next time we are in the neighborhood.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I'll Wait For You (If It Takes Forever)
Angelus (3.15 PM)
Council Of Faith
King Ralph (2.40 PM)
Bewitched
Mr. Bean: The Animated Series
Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From
Secret Gardens
Dr. Katz
Wolf (2.45 PM)
St. Faustina Divine Mercy In Our Souls
TV Shopping
Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako
Now and Forever
EZ Shop
New Life TV Shop
MTV Alert
Rock MYX
Business International
X-Games Preview/Recap
Mlb Championship Series

Cookware for a lifetime of good eating

By Miggy Escano
Contributor

BEKA, AN ESTABLISHED GLOBAL brand in stainless steel cookware, is now available in the Philippines.

With its durability and timeless design, Beka is the choice of professionals in the culinary industry. At the same time, it is widely used by families who rely on quality cookware to create the perfect home-cooked meal.

Good investment

"Quality cookware is a good investment," said An Danneels, Beka head of sales for Asia and the Middle East.

"Beka cookware is made to last. We give a 25-year guarantee for our products," Danneels added.

Beka was established in Germany in 1899. Two industrialists, Daniel Braun and Jakob Kemmler, made the company known for making enamel cookware. Today, the company specializes in manufacturing high quality 18/10, a type of stainless steel, cookware (18 means 18 percent chromium that makes steel stainless, while 10 refers to nickel that gives a silvery sheen). Its reputation is unmatched in Europe and its products are sold in many countries around the world.

Known for elegant and durable workmanship, Beka's features include an extra-thick encapsulated sandwich base that is suitable for all heat sources including induction, ergonomic riveted "stay cool" cast handles, inside capacity marks to indicate volume, a steam hole on the lid, and an attractive and elegant high-polished look.

"Beka combines three elements: American marketing, European R&D (research and development), and Asian ambition—Beka cookware is made in China," said Danneels.

"Our aim is to make Beka a world-known brand name," she added.

Cooking demo

Beka cookware held a cooking demo recently at Mi Piace (Italian for "My Place"), an Italian restaurant at the Peninsula Manila Hotel in Makati City.

Michele Mingozzi, resident chef of Mi Piace, demonstrated the versatility and dependability of Beka products.

For an audience of hungry journalists, Mingozzi produced three delectable dishes: Chilean sea bass on spring vegetables, shrimp ravioli, and French crepes.

Mingozzi loves to be creative and, in his own words, "play with food." Monotony is unwelcome in his kitchen. He loves to experiment with taste and presentation.

The chef said he relished creating new ways to enjoy conventional Italian food. He did this by infusing "cultural fusion" into this cooking. Mingozzi drew inspiration from the techniques he learned while working in a variety of locations, including the Restaurant Schwarzwalstube, which has three Michelin stars, in Germany and the Restaurant Montagnoli high in the Italian Alps, where he worked as a sous chef during the winter season.

Beka cookware has two product lines available in stores: Beka Classic and Beka Line. Both lines have a variety of pots and pans that cater to every need. Every collection includes, among others, fry pans, skillets, casseroles, and double boilers—items essential to any kitchen.

Beka is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Rustan Marketing Corp. For inquiries, call 8909703.

Visit www.beka-cookware.com.

Arugola salad with mango, parma ham, and light balsamic dressing

300 g arugola salad
Balsamic dressing (see below)
100 g parma ham
2 pcs ripe mango

Balsamic Dressing Recipe:

50 cl balsamic vinegar
30 cl olive oil
30 cl vegetable oil
10 g sugar
10 g salt
20 g regular mustard

Mix all the ingredients well with the whisk and leave 30 minutes to rest. Every time you need it remember to mix it properly, otherwise the oil and the vinegar will separate.

For the salad: Have the salad always in the fridge.

When you are ready to prepare the dish, add the dressing and mix it well.

Heat up the sliced Parma Ham —either in the oven or in a pot—and add it to the salad.

Add the sliced mango and mix them all together in a big bowl or a slightly hollowed big plate.

Sprinkle with shaved parmigiano.

Serve as soon as possible.

Ravioli of mushrooms with prawns, cherry tomatoes, in olive oil sauce

Pasta Dough for Ravioli

3 eggs
150 g white flour
150 g of semolina flour
2 tbsp warm water

Filling for ravioli:

100 g of mix mushrooms
Chopped mix herbs and garlic
Salt and pepper
½ glass white wine

Sauce:

8 pcs prawns medium size
Cherry tomatoes
Parsley, chopped
Olive oil
Garlic
Mushrooms

Beka, the German-made stainless steel pots and pans, are guaranteed for 25 years

For the dough, mix all the ingredients and work into a pasta for at least 15 minutes. Let it rest.

In the meantime prepare the filling. Sauté well the garlic and mushrooms in olive oil. Add a little white wine and cook slowly.

Make the ravioli 2½ inches long. They must be square. Four to five pieces each will be enough.

For the sauce, sauté the prawns in garlic and olive oil then add the mushrooms and the wine reduction and add the cherry tomatoes.

Add salt and pepper.

Cook the ravioli in boiling salted water for five minutes.

Pour ravioli into the sauce and serve while hot.

Serves four.

MI PIACE Italian sous chef Michele Mingozzi (left) demonstrates the simplicity of creating sumptuous dishes using Beka cookware.

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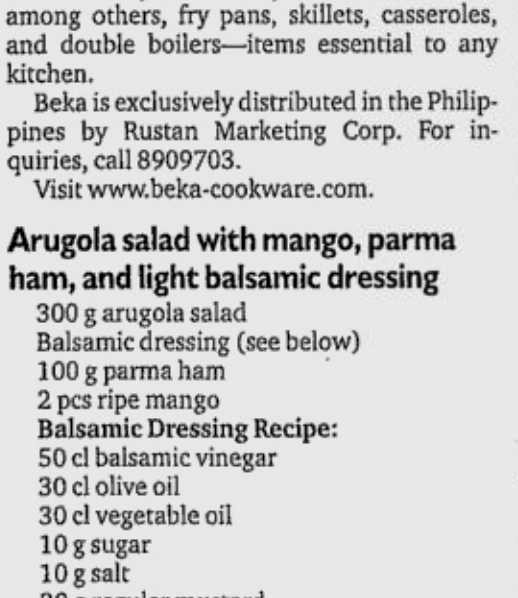
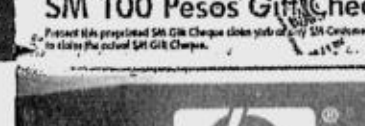


BEKA'S Sales Asia and Middle East head An Danneels shows some of Beka's quality cookware pieces.



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2226, Series of 2005.

Baye-baye, a Halloween dish

PDI FAMILY RECIPES CONTEST

By Sonia G. Cepe

OUR FAMILY ONCE OWNED A traditional grinder made of stone. It was used to grind rice, corn or coffee.

I often remember it when I think about how we used to grind rice, as main ingredient for Baye-Baye, known as Himugo in Panay.

I remember our old folk's tradition in Antique to have the "Panguyang" after the first harvest of the year as a form of thanksgiving and offering to God as we prayed for abundant harvest for the whole year.

One of the dishes offered was the Baye-Baye from the newly harvested and ground *malagkit* rice mixed with young coconut meat and muscovado sugar.

The delightful aroma of roasted rice before it is ground into powder will already whet your appetite. Often, the dish is served in family gatherings such as birthdays, Christmas Noche Buena and most especially Todos Los Santos. Halloween would not be complete without Baye-Baye

ALL THE ingredients are put in a wooden mortar and pestle for pounding.

BAYE-BAYE

Baye-Baye

¾ k muscovado sugar
1 k ground roasted *malagkit* rice
5 pcs grated young coconut

Materials:

Cooking utensils
Wooden mortar and pestle
Coconut grater

Soak *malagkit* rice in water for 30 minutes. Drain excess water. Roast the rice until brownish in color. Set aside to cool and grind.

Grate the young coconut.

Mix the ground rice with grated coconut and muscovado sugar inside the wooden mortar and pestle while pounding until done.

Remove the mixture Baye-Baye from the mortar and roll in banana leaves and slice as desired.

Win SM Supermarket gift checks

LIFESTYLE IS LOOKING FOR recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients.

Send us your family recipes and, if your entry is chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served.

Include a photo of the dish and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipes Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263. Or e-mail at **recipes@inquirer.com.ph.** For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Winners may claim their prizes from the PDI marketing office.

Enjoy traditional Kapampangan buffet

THE KULIAT FOUNDATION, INC. IS SPONsoring Pamangan Fiesta 2005, a lunch buffet of traditional Pampango dishes, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 23, at the 1860s *bahay na bato* Bale Herencia on Sto. Rosario St, Angeles City.

Among the delicacies to be featured is the *camaru* or mole cricket.

The festival aims to help raise funds for the establishment of the first culinary museum in the country, to be housed at the 1920s edifice Museo ning Angeles.

Other traditional Pampango dishes will be donated by local residents, using their families' well-guarded secret recipes like the *camarú*, *batute* or stuffed frogs, *pakô* or fern salad, *kalderetang kambing*, *bringhe* or sticky rice, fried catfish with *balo-balo* or fermented rice, *binulong manok* or chicken cooked in bamboo, green papaya *lumpia*, *adobong pugo* or quail, *pindang damulag* with carabao's milk, *kilain* (a sort of pork innards *adobo*), *tibuk-tibok* or carabao's milk custard and, of course, Pampanga's legendary *halo-halo* served with *pastillas de leche*.

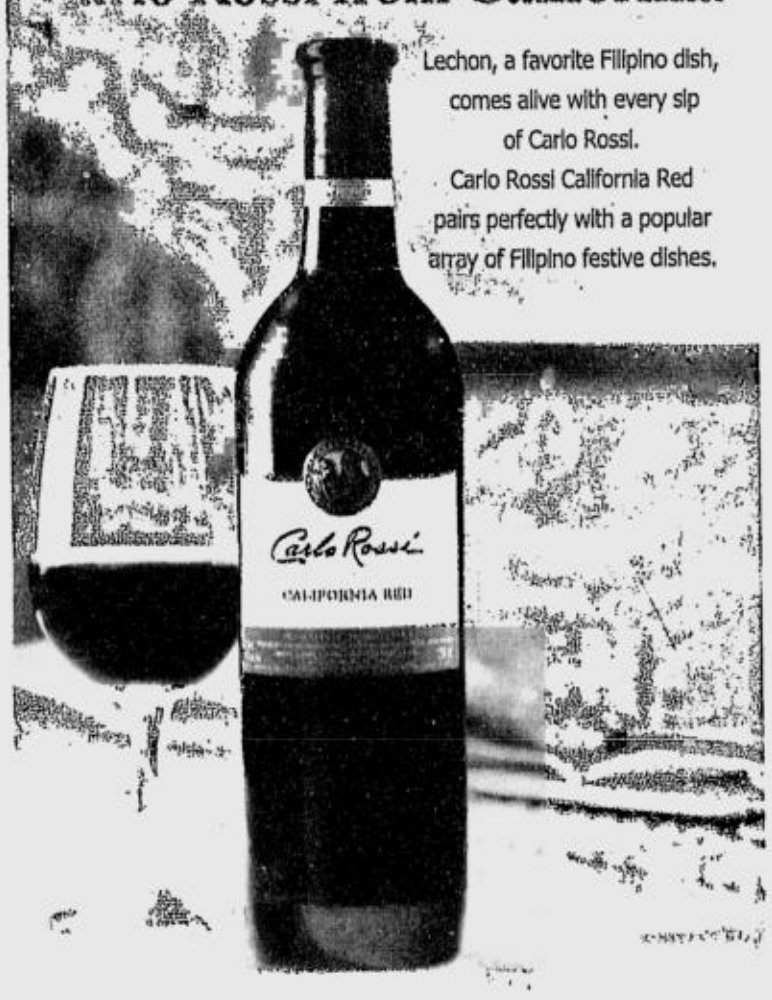
Tickets are available at P500 each on a first-come, first-served basis.

A guided heritage tour of old houses and the Center for Kapampangan Research at the Holy Angel University will also be arranged for those interested.

Call 045-8874703 or 0922-8109390. E-mail bessieakino@yahoo.com

All the best, Carlo Rossi from California.

Lechon, a favorite Filipino dish, comes alive with every sip of Carlo Rossi.
Carlo Rossi California Red pairs perfectly with a popular array of Filipino festive dishes.



Seminar on food hygiene in catering

LEARN THE PRINCIPLES AND practices of effective food hygiene in catering in the "Hygiene & Food Safety Seminar—A Guide to Food Handlers," 3-6 p.m., Oct. 20-21.

Find out how to prevent foodborne diseases like E. coli, salmonella, etc. The class will be conducted by Vivien E. Mangalindan, TQM Services executive director for Asia-Pacific region.

"Basic Waitering and Bartending," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 22 and 29, covers basic setup, techniques for suggestive selling, proper serving and bussing out, napkin folding and skirting, bar tools and glassware, classification of wine and spirits, simple garnish.

Acquire foundation skills through "Basic Cooking," 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Oct. 25-28. The class covers proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. Mix & Match cookbooks will be given away.

Visit Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City, or call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph

Cooking up a feast

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS School of Culinary Arts offers the following classes:

Oct. 21—Mom and Me: Our Thanksgiving Feast (all new!)—Cream of Scallop Cappuccino Soup, Chilled Prawn Salad, Mom's Traditional Brined Turkey with Chestnut Stuffing Served with Gravy and Warm Cranberry Sauce and Mixed Mashed Root Vegetables, Pumpkin Rice Casserole, Mom's Caramel Apple Pie with Homemade Queso Ice Cream

Oct. 22—Prichon Done My Way—Crisp-Fried Lechon de Leche Done My Way, Served Peking Duck Style with Homemade Pancakes and 12 sauces

Oct. 24—Soft Bread Making Workshop Hands On—make your own and bring home delicious bread. Two Dough Recipes and Variations. Honey Loaf, Dinner Rolls, Cheese Rolls, Garlic and Herb

Oct. 26—Wood Chip Smoked! (all-new!)—Learn to perfect the art of smoking. Your Own Homemade Smoked Salmon with Condiments, Wood Chip Roast Chicken, Smoked Ribs Tex Mex Style, Wood Chip Roasted Duck with Orange Sauce, Whole Wood Chip Roasted Lamb. Sauces and Side Dishes

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744, 0917-8399888.

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Magandang Araw-Araw.

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Favorite sandwich recipes from leading chefs

PERDOMO Cigars Asia's Hillman Lentz, Viking Range's Mike Alexander, Mrs. Lentz, Construction Security's David Fouts, Cathay Pacific's Steven Lawrence, Reggie Aspiras, Sandra Fernandez, Bernard Dee, Nellia Silverio-Dee, Butch Thiong, Chef Jose Sotto, Gari Palmani

THE SIAM CIGAR SOCIETY CAME TO TOWN and wanted to experience food and wine, Manila-style. Leonard Tiong booked for dinner at La Vigne and what an enchanting evening it turned out to be—with longtime and newfound friends!

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

It took my good friend Sandra Fernandez, sworn food and wine enthusiast, three weeks and four visits to finalize the menu. As she put it, everything was too good that she could not decide on which dishes from Chef Jose Sotto's repertoire to serve. In the end, it turned out to be a nine-course dégustation!

As the evening progressed and the wine started to flow, so did all the little dishes, each one executed to perfection! We had Tartare (yellowfin tuna, ginger, soy, rice crackers, avocado), Ravioli (ricotta, mascarpone filled, tomato broth, shimeji mushrooms, truffle oil), Duck (hot-smoked duck breast, basmati rice salad, apricot chutney, coriander vinaigrette), Ulang (freshwater prawn, zaru soba, mushrooms), Lavigne (Risotto of Cepes, melted leeks, parmesan, lime).

When we got to the Scallop (seared, crisp crab noodle cake, petite salad, sea urchin sauce), Prawn (grilled tiger prawn, jasmine rice, pineapple relish, fresh yellow curry), and finally the Pork Leg (crisp boned leg of pork, barley salad, sweet balsamic foie gras), we all agreed that the genius of Sotto's food is how he manages to keep it simple, where each and every ingredient seems to be there to compliment the other. Each palatal encounter seems like a symphony at play, a delicious subtle fusion, a gentle explosion, a rousing harmony of flavors. Each dish brought before us seemed to heighten the expectation for the next yet left us in want of what was before.

Absolute best

While the gustatory experience was unveiling, the conversation took us from Viking kitchens to Beefsteak and Burgundy lunches, from cigars to mysterious tattoos, then to a subject none of us could escape, the excellence of the scallops and the prawns and how the pork leg was undeniably the best we have ever tried! It is good to know that Jose is back with a vengeance, at the top of his game. Unanimously, La Vigne shall remain a preferred dining destination for us.

As for the evening of Oct. 20, it will go down in history as one of those to look back to, with immense fondness. It was a happy time when the talk was good, the feeling was easy, the laughter was light, and the memories were plenty. How we wished we had more time!

La Vigne, by the way, is located at 7435 Yakal St., San Antonio Village, Makati (8941373). Great ambiance, reasonably priced, vast wine selection, and their foie gras, a must-try!

For Louie, Louie

I'm Louie, 13 years old. Can you spare me some sandwich-filling recipes? We need it 'coz mom and I sell sandwiches every day and I know it will be a big help for us if we can make different kinds of sandwiches.

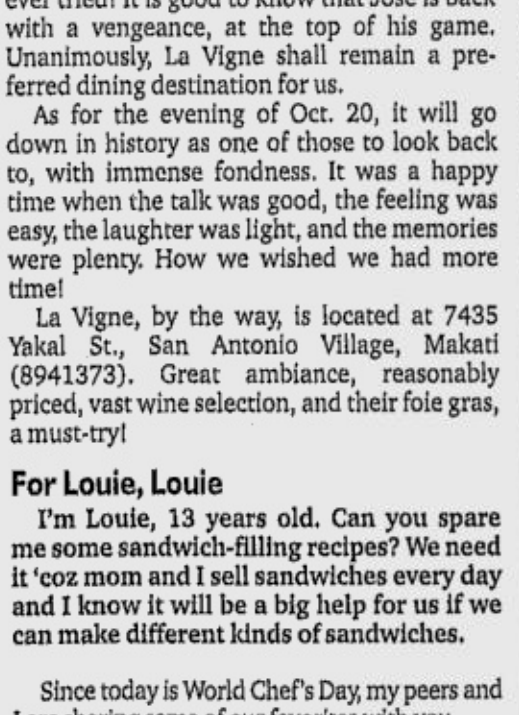
Since today is World Chef's Day, my peers and I are sharing some of our favorites with you.

Ariel and Mia Manuel, Lolo Dad's: Mix to combine: 1 c butter (whipped), 1½ c ham, ¼ c sweet pickles, 1 can pimiento, 1 egg, boiled and chopped.

Ed Quimson, Chef Ed's, Filos, Teak: Mix to combine: 1 k *hamonado longganisa* (fried), cool, Cheese Sauce (2 c Magnolia Quickmelt + ½ c milk, whisk over heat until smooth, cool), ½ c mayo, ¼ c minced red pimiento.

Fernando Aracama, Uva and Embassy: Mix to combine: 1 can luncheon meat (sliced, season lightly with sugar, sear in oil until caramelized, dice), 10 chopped hard-boiled

FAVORITE/ D4



PORK Leg La Vigne

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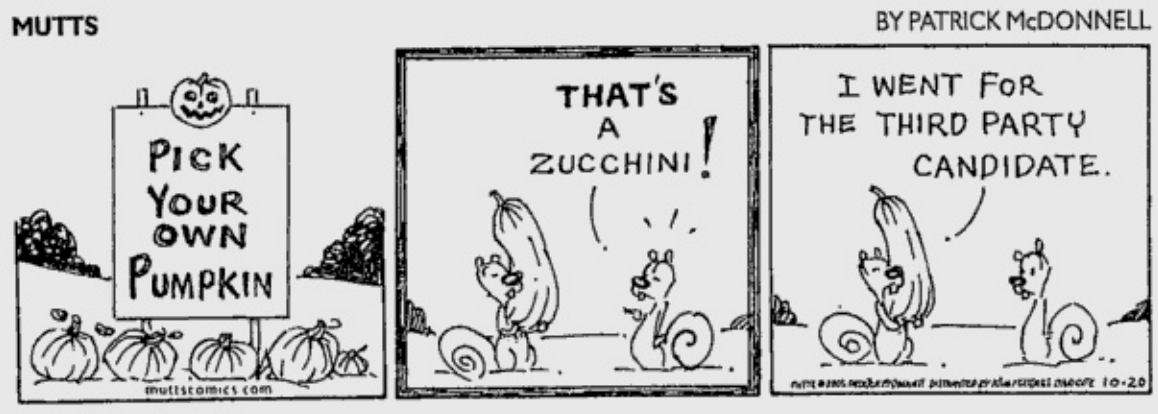


ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

ETERNAL LOVE

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're logical, sensible and have a lot of street smarts. You know how to take care of yourself. You have a good mind for money. You're very determined. You're also aware of fashion and trends. The year ahead is full of fresh, new possibilities! You're beginning a new cycle.
Birthdate of: Viggo Mortensen, actor; Art Buchwald, political humorist; Tom Petty, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is the first really decent day all week that you can count on your ability to negotiate, teach, market, sell and talk to others. Go right ahead with negotiations and signing contracts.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a fine day to make important purchases. Whatever you buy will likely be practical and will last for a long time. You feel very sensible today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The Moon is in your sign today. Not only that, it is strongly aspecting other planets. You feel grounded, logical and competent. You're in a good frame of mind to deal with anyone or anything.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for research. You're prepared to roll up your sleeves and work hard at whatever is right in front of you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Talk to someone older today. Get the advice of those who are wiser and more experienced than you. Besides, you can save money by learning from the mistakes of others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day to talk with authority figures, bosses, parents and teachers. You want to solidify practical matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good day to try to get in contact with people who are far away. It's also a fine day for important decisions regarding publishing, the media, higher education, the law and medicine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a much better idea today about how to deal with the resources of others. You also know how to divide something or spend a set amount of money.

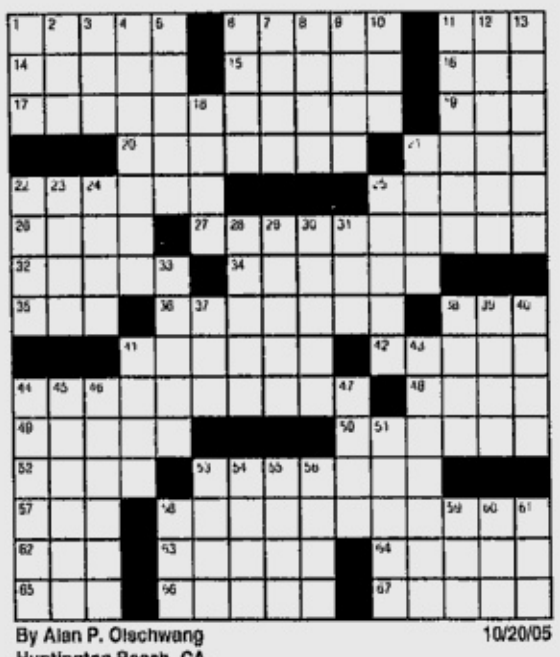
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Discussions with partners will be very fruitful today. You've got your head in the clouds, but your feet are planted firmly on the ground.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You could really get a lot done today at work. You're like a hot knife cutting through butter. Your mind is logical, analytical and practical right now. Zowie!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day for artists to figure out how to market their wares. It's also an excellent day for people who work with children or are involved in the arts and professional sports.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Make long-range plans for family members and real estate. Purchase practical items for your home. It's a good day to make repairs where you live.

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Opera songs
6 Parson's house
11 Sturdy cup
14 Fen
15 Poker announcement
16 Kimono holder
17 Start of Duc de La Rochefoucauld quote
19 Neither here __ there
20 Most concise
21 Campus Greek house
22 __ Vallarta
25 Comb element
26 Length x width
27 Part 2 of quote
32 Surfeits
34 Went out
35 PC command
36 Quantity of prevention?
38 Actress Ryan
41 Van Gogh's "__ Night"
42 Photog's command
44 Part 3 of quote
48 Wight or Skye
49 Ornamental mat
50 Lassos
52 Special periods
53 Holds
57 JFK info letters
58 End of quote
62 Beverage choice
63 Tori Spelling's dad
64 Cost
65 Woods rival
66 Dried plum
67 Used the VCR

DOWN
1 Check fig.
2 College cheer
3 Anger
4 Butt collector
5 Piece of paper
6 Russian jets
7 Belly or heart follower
8 Hentoff and Hiken
9 Vending machine feature
10 Small being
11 President with a doctrine?
12 WWII menace
13 Waistlines
18 Camaro model
21 __ du Lac, WI
22 Walk to and fro
23 Internet identifiers, briefly
24 Workers' protection letters
25 Ash and oak
28 Arrowsmith's first wife
29 Outlying community
30 Plastics base
31 & more
33 Just watched
37 Highlands' refusal
38 Fine drops
39 Ms. Fitzgerald
40 Lift-off pressure
41 Fifths of scales
43 "Timecop" co-star
44 Conceive
45 Reddish horse
46 Small crowns
47 Roberts or Clapton
51 Awkward
53 Niagara noise
54 Hosiery shade
55 Roger Rabbit, for one
56 Writer Rice
58 Spigot
59 Rim of a cup
60 Rink flooring
61 Actor Knight

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/20/05

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

T	U	M	S	■	A	P	A	C	E	■	S	T	O	W
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10/20/05

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

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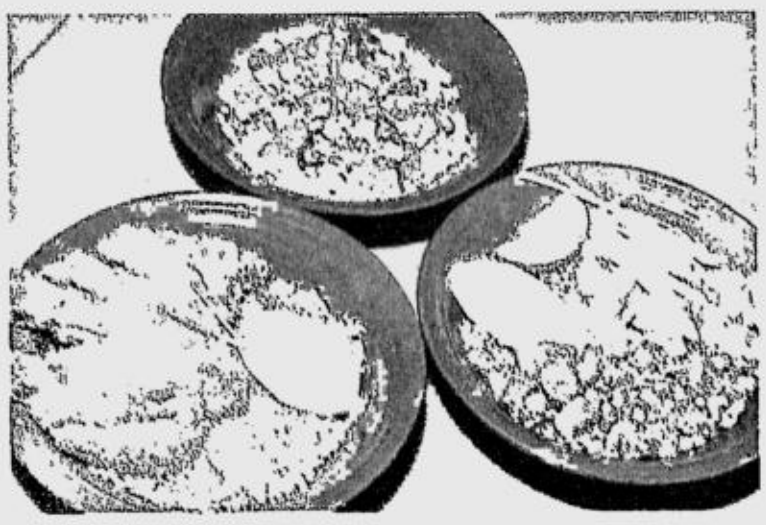
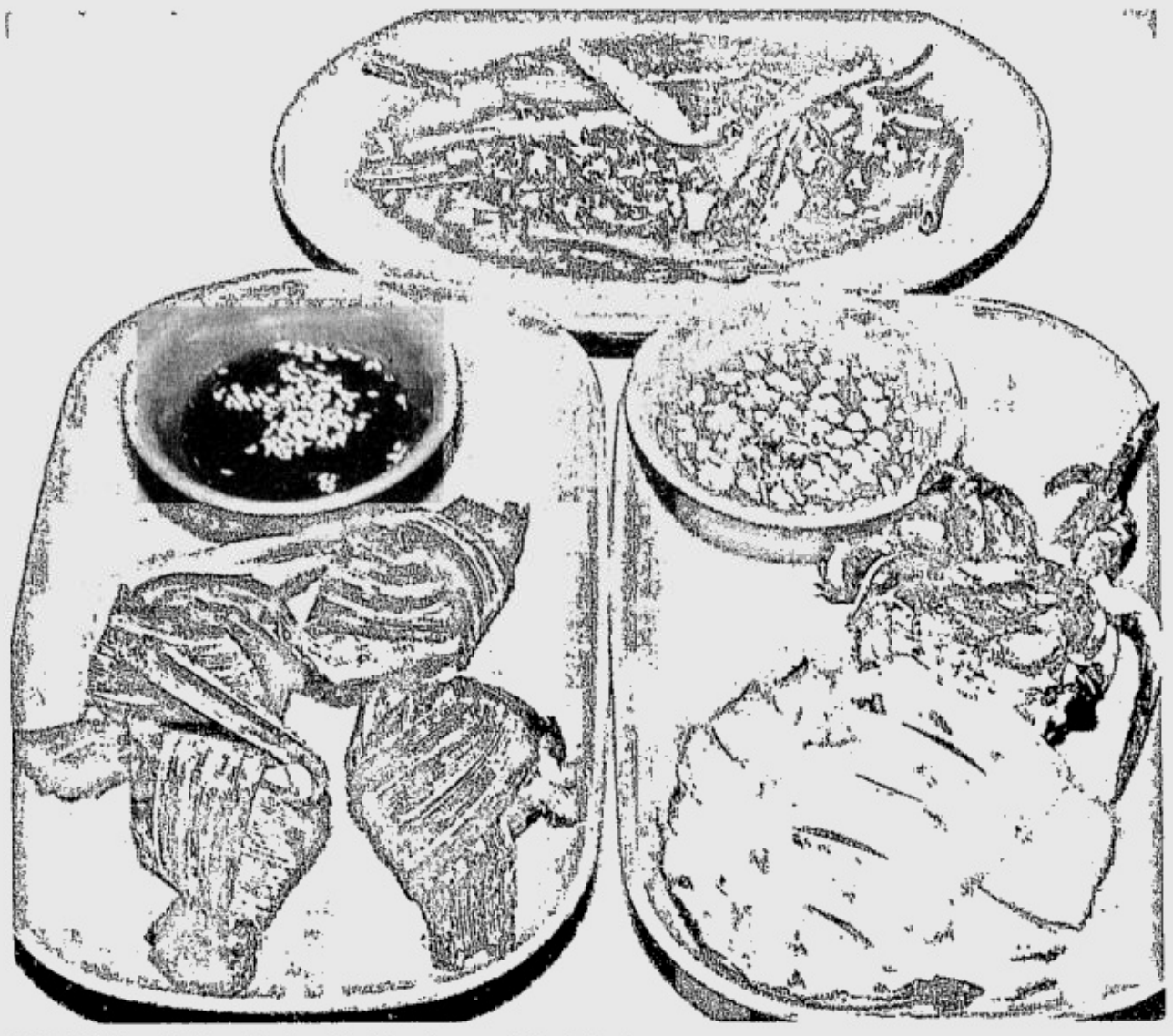


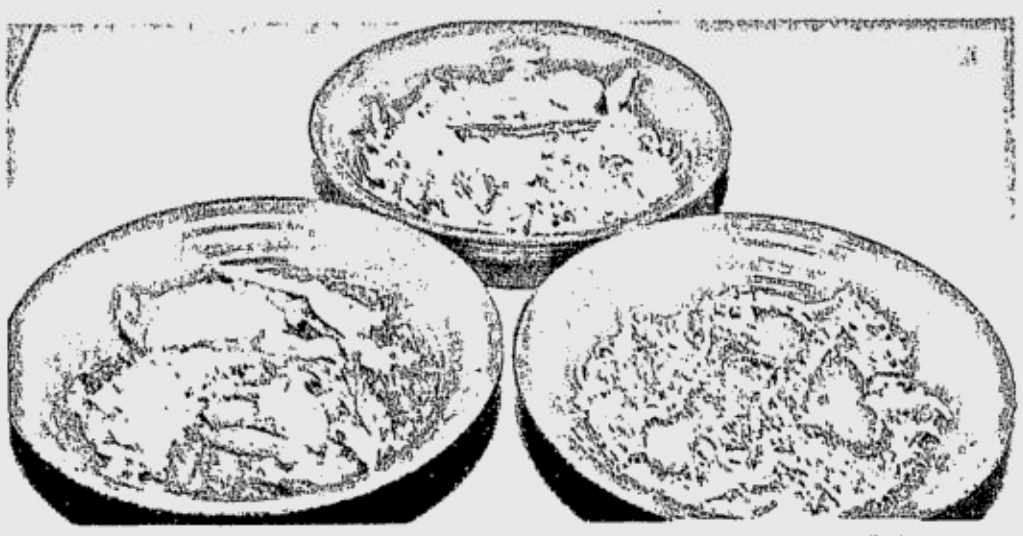
SUMPTUOUS servings: Popular rice dishes, such as the Breaded Pork Chop with Yellow Rice, are big enough to be shared.

You don't have to break the bank to enjoy good quality Thai food at Oody's Xpress



THAI delights: Chicken Pandan, Thai Kangkong and Squid Barbecue

PHOTOS: RUDY ESPERAS



OODLES of noodles: Pad Thai Chicken, Pad Thai Shrimp and Singaporean Pad Thai

From the streets of Thailand to Manila

A SLICE of Thai heaven: Oody's Xpress is the perfect place to enjoy authentic street foods and desserts from Thailand.

HOME TO THE FAMOUS street foods and desserts of Thailand, Oody's Xpress has become the place to go for dishes that are authentically Thai at incredibly affordable prices.

This fits in with the vision of restaurateurs Dori and Maritel Nievera-Shani, who explored the streets of Thailand and brought home the Thai fast-food concept to Manila.

The couple wanted to offer Filipinos the Thai culinary experience at reasonable cost without sacrificing quality. And that was exactly what they have done since opening the Oody's Xpress first branch at Market! Market! in October last year.

The express-food restaurant's extensive menu features a variety of rice and noodles dishes, soups, salads and desserts, including signature Thai dishes that are comparable in flavor to those being served at high-end Thai specialty restaurants in town. The difference is the dishes at Oody's Express come in generous servings at much less cost.

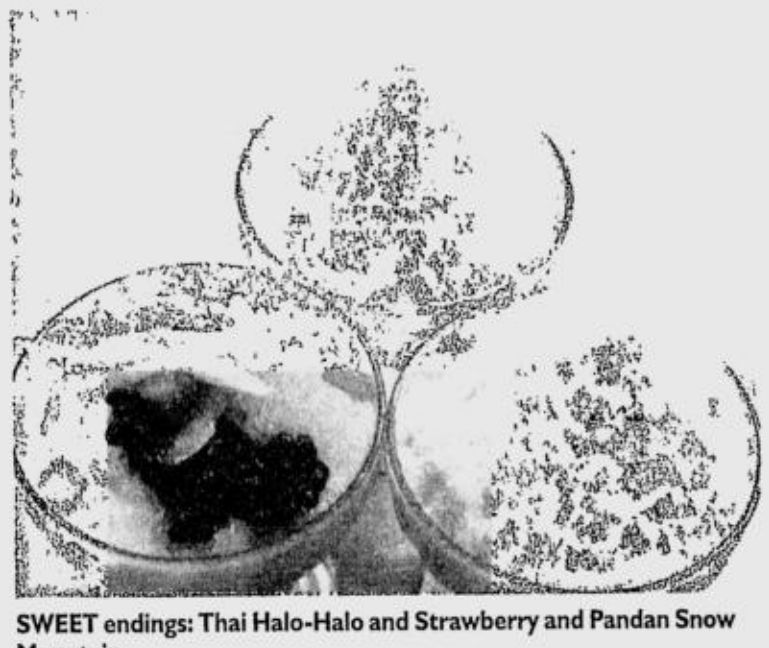
Bestsellers include Beef in Brown Soup (P90), Thai version of the local *dinuguan*; Catfish Yaam (P90), deboned and breaded catfish served with unripe mangoes on top; and Breaded Pork Chop with Yellow Rice (P108), which is served with spicy curried rice. Other popular items are the Papaya Paraa (P45), Egg Noodle Soup with Wanton and Roasted Pork (P78), Thai Bagoong Rice (P85), Pad Thai Chicken (P88), Thai Kangkong (P45) and Chicken Pandan (P80).

Desserts include the Snow Mountain (P38), crushed ice topped with Thai-flavored sweet flower syrup; and Thai *halo-halo* (P38), served with either fresh milk or coconut milk.

Drinks are also given the Thai treatment, like the Thai iced tea (P28) and Thai iced coffee (P38).

Oody's Express is located at SM North Edsa, Market! Market!, SM Sta. Mesa and Glorietta 2. Watch out for more of Oody's Xpress Thai delights at The Gateway Foodcourt, Robinsons Place Ermita and SM Valenzuela.

PIPING hot: Beef in Brown Soup, Egg Noodle Soup with Wanton and Roasted Pork and Sukhothai Soup



SWEET endings: Thai Halo-Halo and Strawberry and Pandan Snow Mountain

Calling all chocoholics

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza showcases Loco for Choco Feast until Oct. 31 at Café Plaza Too. Buffet treats include Chocolate Almond Clusters, White Chocolate Cheese Cake, Decaf Ganache Tiramisu, Chili Chocolate Souffle, Chocolate Almond Slice Bailets Ganache Mudpie, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Pistachio Opera Cake, Bittersweet Chocolate Truffle, Gjunduja Almond Cake, Churros con Chocolate and Fried Banana with Langka and Chocolate. Call 5515555.

DINING OUT

MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Rotisserie features All About Salmon until Oct. 30. The menu consists of Salmon Gravlax, Grilled Smoked Salmon Salad, Potato Salmon Soup, Poached Salmon Rose, Salmon Flambe Table Side, Salmon Strudel and Salmon Darne. Call 5261212.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel introduces Rice Galore, which features *longganisa* rice, *adobo* rice, *tuyo* rice and *tapang usa* rice. The Deli Shop offers Chocolate Apple Glaze as its cake for October. The chocolate cake is surrounded with soft cookies and topped with dark chocolate icing, apple and white chocolate strips. Call 8673333.

SOFAH Restaurant brings back 5+1 Special. Order five dishes and get another dish for free. For its Halloween special, guests can participate in Finders Keepers promo. Diners can check out pumpkin stickers at the back of their plates to get a free dish. Freebies are given away for a minimum purchase of P500. Call 4006572/ 5232058.

THE PENINSULA Manila's Mi Place presents gourmet mushroom dishes until Oct. 30. Call 8872888.

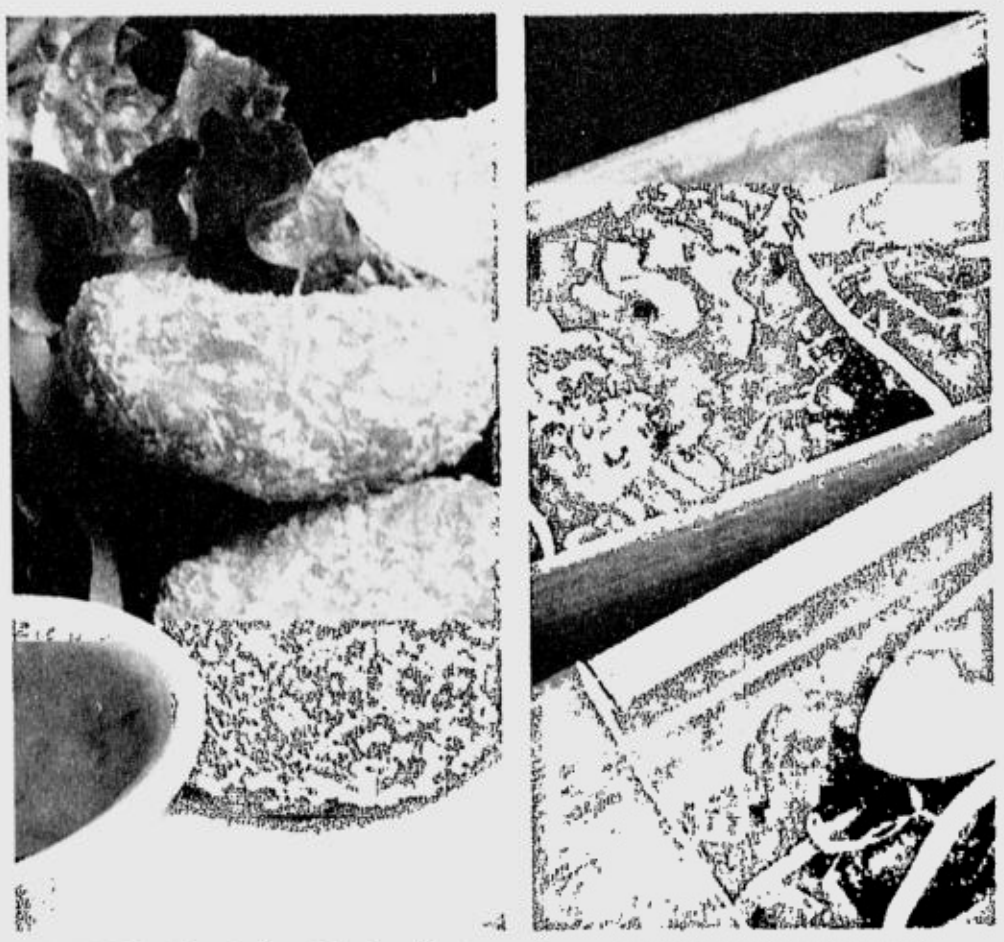
EDSA Shangri-La's o's features Becks and Paulaner beers and German sausages until Oct. 31. Call 6338888.

THE BELLEVUE Hotel's Café d'Asie opens its Shabu-shabu station. In addition to the pasta and carving corners, Mongolian section, sushi cart and hot selections, guests can enjoy this popular Japanese dish until Nov. 30. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at the poolside fills with the aroma of barbecues hot off the grill. From 6-10 p.m., savor grilled seafood, beef, pork, chicken, kebabs and sausages until Nov. 30. Call 7718181.

MANILA Diamond Hotel's Kohikan serves Special Lunch Set menus from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Guests can choose from Beef Stew, Fried Pork Cutlet, Curry Rice, Wa-fu Spaghetti with Mushrooms and Squid and Katsu Sandwich. Call 5283000.

SOUTH SEA Grill offers seafoods like squid, prawns, tuna, tanigue, guindara, mussels, crabs, Sergeant fish and Diana fish. There are also meat dishes such T-Bone Steak, Tenderloin Tips, Baby Back Ribs, Chicken Inasal, Bulalo and Ox Tongue with White Sauce. South Sea Grill is located at Metrowalk Commercial Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

ROOM for Dessert offers profiteroles, chocolate pie, cassava cake, leche flan, chocolate cake, mocha praline cake, ensaymada, food for the gods, apple crumble, brownies, cookies, pasta, sandwiches and rice meals. Room for Dessert is located in Marcelo Green Village Complex in Parañaque. Call 8221638.



CRUSTASIA Asian Crab and Seafood Restaurant presents Thai Shrimp Pancakes and Vietnamese Seafood Paella. The restaurant is located at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati; and The Podium, 3/F, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center. Call 7285463/ 6313857.

A surfeit of 'spam'

LIKE LETTER SENDER V. HUGHES, I'VE HAD all I can take of those spams that infiltrate my e-mail inbox every day.

I'm not only getting unwanted mail about free-dating sites, kinky invitations and sex-enhancing products. But in addition to these junks, I also get endless promos and ads for healthcare products.

As advised by the technical support unit of my service provider, I have been forwarding

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

the junk mail to a special spam-report address hoping this would lessen the problem. However, I don't even get a response from whoever receives the mail.

I am sure that besides Hughes and myself, other e-mail subscribers are hapless victims of these spammers.

In her letter to this column, Hughes said: "For the past weeks, I have been receiving daily e-mail messages advertising the sex-performance drug Cialis and I have noticed that all the addressees are subscribers to pldtdsl.net. I wonder whether PLDT sells the names and addresses of its subscribers to the manufacturer of this drug. I feel that this is a violation of my privacy."

PLDT explains

I sent a copy of Hughes' letter to my contact at the Philippine Long Distance Telephone company, who endorsed it to Howard Coria of the PLDT Retail Data Services, who in turn, alerted B. R. Ordoña of PLDT MyDSL customer care office.

Here is Ordoña's reply to the query of V. Hughes:

"We would like to inform you that the unsolicited/spam mail you have been receiving could be hoax messages sent via SMTP (simple mail transfer protocol, the de facto standard for e-mail transmission) to propagate this kind of mail. Hoaxes usually arrive in the form of an e-mail that contains bogus information that misleads users. Some of these hoax messages also 'spoof' different e-mail addresses in the to-and-from field. [The] spam mail may [have also] been sent by a sponsor of an online service that you unintentionally visited on the Internet.

"In view of the numerous unsolicited mails you have been receiving, you may want to try to request for a change of your MyDSL e-mail address... and this can be processed in 24-48 hours.

"Another alternative is to ignore and delete this kind of mail or you can also filter out or block the unwanted addresses or domain names on your end to [prevent] it from sending unsolicited mail to your account. You just have to activate the e-mail filtering feature included in your e-mail program (e.g., Outlook Express/Microsoft Outlook or Eudora).

"Please be assured that our technical management group and our network administrators are constantly monitoring our servers to [prevent] any problem."

Unclear

E-mail sender Judith O. is calling on organizers of sales promotions to inform the public about the specific date when a particular offer ends. She related the following experience:

"I bought a moisturizing lotion because I was attracted by a promo sticker on the label. It was a text-for-a-prize promo. But when I sent a text to the number listed on the sticker, I received a reply that said promo had ended."

She realized further that she'd been nailed when she checked the load balance on her cell phone and found out it cost her P2.50 to test her entry to a promo/contest that had ended.

Signs of text scams

The following tips on how to detect text scams were sent to this column by the Bureau of Trade Regulations and Consumer Protection of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI-BTRCP):

- Senders of text scam use ordinary prepaid numbers that come in several digits, for example, 0910-123456. Know that cellular service providers assign four-digit numbers to companies conducting legitimate promotions.
- Be wary when you get a notice out of the blue that you won a prize. Institutions conducting legitimate promotions notify winners through announcements on tri-media (newspapers, television, radio) and through registered mail that state the date, place, and requirement for claiming the prize.
- It's a hoax if the text sender asks you to text back your tax payment data or cell card pin numbers, bank account. The text con artist usually asks for cell card pin, or instructs you to open a bank account where you can remit tax payment for the prize you supposedly won.

When the promo uses a DTI permit number to make it seem legitimate, verify its legitimacy by calling DTI-NCR at 8118231 loc. 1203, or go to the nearest DTI regional and provincial office.

Report text scams to the National Telecommunications Commission (9267722) or write to engineer Danilo Orense-Cuenca, chief of the NTC-One Stop Public Assistance Center at 3/F NTC Bldg., BIR Road, Quezon City.

Send consumer complaints and comments to giron@mailstation.net

Favorite sandwich recipes . . .

From page D1

eggs, 2 ½ c mayo, ½ c pickle relish, pepper to taste.

J Gamboa, Cirkulo and Milkyway: Mix to combine: 1 c cooked small shrimp peeled, 2 tbsp onion minced, 2 tbsp celery, 1 c mayo, salt and pepper to taste. Spread on bread, add sliced canned pineapple .

Jessie Sinciloco, Le Soufflé: Mix to combine: 1 can Spanish Sardines, mashed, 2 *kalamansi*, juiced or vinegar, 1 tbsp *toyo*.

Rolando Laudico: 1 chicken breast (marinate in 1 tbsp soy, 1 tsp sugar, 1 tsp garlic, 1 tsp oil, grill and strip). Lay on bread, sprinkle cheese and put in oven toaster until cheese melts. Add tomato, cucumber, onions, lettuce. Serve with mustard, ketchup, mayo.

Toby Libarnes, Nestle: 2 pcs chicken breast, grilled and sliced; tomatoes and mushrooms, grilled and sliced; green pepper, roasted and peeled. For spread combine: ¼ c mayo, 2 tbsp Maggi Chili Sauce, 1 tsp cilantro, 1 tsp finely minced onions, salt and pepper to taste. Fill French bread with spread, add in grilled components. Grill and serve.

And from me to you: Mix to combine: 1 c tuna (drained), ½ c onions, 1 c mayonnaise, ½ c celery, ½ c apples, ¼ c fresh dill (optional), 1 boiled egg, 2 tbsp Dijon mustard, salt and pepper to taste, pinch of sugar.

To all my colleagues, Happy World Chef's Day! See you tonight!

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

HENY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL

THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES: This 20-day hands on class is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking & baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Class begins November 7 – December 21, 2005. Classes are held every Mondays to Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.
For more information call 726-5316 or 412 7792 and ask Rita or Jenny

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

November 4 (Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison. P1,500

November 4 (Friday) 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.SPECIAL COURSE ON COOKIES by: Heny Sison. P1,500

November 4 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS by: Glenn Remorca, floral designer. P2,500

November 5 (Saturday) 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.BASIC RESTAURANT SERVICE SKILLS by: Cecile Mauricio, former editor of Mabuhay Philippines (Philippine Airlines' in-flight magazine), is a communication and marketing consultant for various restaurants. P1,500

November 7 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison. P1,500

November 7 (Monday) 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison. P1,500

November 8 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.CHEESECAKE GALLERY by: Heny Sison. P1,500

November 9 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.NEW CLASSI HEIRLOOM RECIPES & SIGNATURE CATERING DISHES (PART I) by: Chef Sam de Leoz, Food Consultant, Stylist, Photographer, Caterer, Food demonstrator and Culinary Competion Events Consultant specializing in Basic & Classical Cookery; International & Asian Cuisine. Inherited recipes, secrets and signature catering dishes cooking demonstration with student participation.*Pancit Palsbok, Wine-braised Mechado w/ Mushroom Sauce and Truffle Essence, Roasted Brined Pork Ribs w/ Citrus Barbecue Sauce, Layered Baked Macaroni, Relyenong Manok w/ Pineapple Cinnamon Sauce, Mahi-Mahi w/ Sauce Tartare and Rainbow garnish. P2,500

November 10 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. SOUTH BEACH DIET PHASE I by: Jacqueline Haesslg Alleje, owner of Rizal Dairy Farm, Swiss-Pinoy restaurateur (Vieux Chalet Swiss restaurant), organic caterer and food consultant (Petra's naturally green, global, gourmet). P2,800

November 10 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASSI U.S. TURKEY CLASS I by: Chef Ed Quimson , is a seasoned master chef of Spanish origin, creator of Chef Ed's Restaurant at Salcedo Village, Makati City and his latest restaurant FILOS at The Fort, Makati City. He has also lent his expertise to such restaurants as La Tasca, Via Mare, The Nielsen Tower, the Member's Lounge of the Phil. Stock Exchange & the Subic Yacht Club *Learn the many ways of preparing turkey w/ recipes such as Turkey Galantina, Roast Turkey w/ Spanish stuffing and Salsa Diablo, Turkey Ham & Turkey pastel. Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

November 11 – 12 (Friday & Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison * Learn the basics of cake decorating: icing, color, star, shell, dots, outline and scallop borders; the rose, figure piping: clowns & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. Full participation. Part I of Master Course in Cake Decorating. P4,000

November 14 – 15 (Monday & Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CAKE DECORATING COURSE II by: Heny Sison * Add amazing new skills to your cake decorating – the world of icing flowers, distinctive borders, flower spray & specialty flowers. As a final project you will decorate a basketweave cake filled with cascading flower. Full participation. Part II of Master Course in Cake Decorating. P4,000

November 16 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. COOKIE WORKSHOP by: Chef Jacqueline Ang-Po, Pastry Chef of Fleur de Lys Patisserie, dean's list graduate, California Culinary Academy. P2,500

November 17 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.NEW CLASS I U.S. TURKEY CLASS II by: Chef Jane Paredes, Food Consultant, trained at the Culinary Institute of America Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Learn the many ways of preparing turkey such as Turkey Sausage, Turkey Pastrami, Apricot Glazed Turkey Ham, Roasted and Stuffed Turkey w/ fruit & nut bread stuffing chestnut & mushroom stuffing, giblet sauce, Madeira Sauce & cranberry sauce. Demonstration w/ student participation. P2,500

November 17 (Thursday)10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.(classroom B) NEW CLASSI BARBECUE WITH SAUCES & DIPS: WORKSHOP by: Chef Sam de Leoz. Hands-on Barbecue Workshop providing innovative method prepared for small entrepreneur and caterer in order to pay the way for business opportunities and increase the revenue for the coming holiday season.*Spicy Buffalo Wings w/ Blue Cheese Dip & Celery Stick, Famous Aling N2 Barbecue w/ Meltzancealata (Spicy Over Gin Dip), Indonesian Mixed Satay: Mixed Beef & Lamb w/ Sambal Kacang (Peanut Sauce), Yakitori w/ Mango Black Bean Salsa, Grilled Seafood Medley: Prawns, Scallops & Fish Fillet w/ Mustard – Dill Vinaigrette, Grilled Sausage w/ Cilantro Aioli Dip, Amorgozo (Ampalaya) & Smoked Fish Morsels w/ Cottage Cheese & Garlic Crunch Dressing, Java Rice. P2,500

November 18,19, & 21 –23 (Friday, Saturday, & Monday to Wednesday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.CAKE DECORATING COURSE III by: Heny Sison. *Learn how to create a tiered wedding cake, embellishing borders, side borders, string work, filigree, fancy flowers, color flow on cookies, sugar molding, lattice for the side of the cake and tiered cake ideas. The grand finale to course 3 is an impressive wedding cake. Full participation.
Prerequisite: Cake Decorating Course 1 & 2 This completes the Master Course in Cake Decorating. P8,000

November 24 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.EDIBLE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS II by: Chef Jill Sandique, Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate at Peter Kumps New York Cooking School. P1,500

November 24 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. NEW CLASSI NEW FRESH SAUSAGES & MEAT ITEMS TO MAKE AT HOME by: Chef Jane Paredes. P3,000
* Recipes: Spanish Style Chorizo, Chinese Sausage, Breakfast Sausage, Polish Kielbasa, Chicken Ham with Glaze, Chicken Liver Spread, Seafood Terrine and Hamburger. Demonstration with student participation.

November 28 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASSI ITALIAN CHRISTMAS by: Chef Jill Sandique Grand Antipasto All' Italiana, Risotto Alla Milanese, Risotto Con Le Capesante, Ossobuco Alla Milanese, Verze Sofegee, Gnocchi Di Patate, Pomodoro E Basilico. P2,000

November 29 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SIOPAO & MAMI WORKSHOPby: Chef Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat restaurant), caterer and an expert in Chinese cuisine. P2,500

November 30 (Wednesday)10.00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. FLOWER SHOP FAVORITES by: Glenn Remorca. P3,000

December 2 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING 1 by: Chef Katherine Sion. P1,700

December 2 (Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. BASIC BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison. P2,500

December 3 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SECRETS NO MORE! P3,000 by: Heny Sison

December 3 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
NEW CLASSI NOCHE BUENA TREAT WORKSHOP by: Chef Sam de Leoz. Why prepare the same Noche Buena dishes every year when you can prepare the old classics with a twist! The Noche Buena hands-on workshop will provide an alternative respite to homemakers whipping up menus for the family in the coming holiday season *Cochinillo w/ Roasted Liver Sauce, Diandan-Brined Roast Turkey Pinoy Style w/ Basi Wine Liver & Giblets Gravy, Morcon w/ Sauce Churron, Chinese Style Stuffed Pork Trotters w/ Chestnut Filling in Shiitake Apricot Glaze, Pomelo Salad, Thai Shrimp Paste Pasta, Jackfruit Panna Cotta w/ Kopi Jelly & Ube Coulis garnished w/ Cheese Crisps. Limited to 15 students only. P5,000

December 5 (Monday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. EASY NO-BAKE DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique. P1,500

December 6 (Tuesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. BAKED PASTA by: Chef Jill Sandique. P1,700

December 7 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASSI EASY ITALIAN DESSERTS FOR THE HOLIDAY by: Chef Jill Sandique *Fragole all' Aceto Balsamico, Chocolate Semifreddo, Zabaglione Classico, Baci alle Fragole, Torta Caprese, Cassata Casalinga plus bonus recipes. P1,700

December 8 (Thursday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASSI A TASTE OF LIFE RECIPES: PART 1 (Most Requested!) by: Heny Sison. * Barquillos, Pulvoron, Pastillas de Leche, Pastillas de Ube and Special Buko Pie. P1,500

December 8 (Thursday) 10:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. PATTIES & TURNOVERS P2,500 by: Chef Jill Sandique. P2,500

December 9 (Friday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MY FAVORITE CAKES by: Heny Sison. P1,500

December 9 (Friday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. POPULAR CHINESE DISHES FOR CATERING 3 by: Chef Katherine Sion. P1,700

December 10 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASSI VEGETABLE & HERB BREADS by: Heny Sison *Pesto Bread, Mushroom Bread, Tomato Bread, Spinach Bread, Rosemary Bread. P1,500

December 10 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. SPECIAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Remorca. P3,000

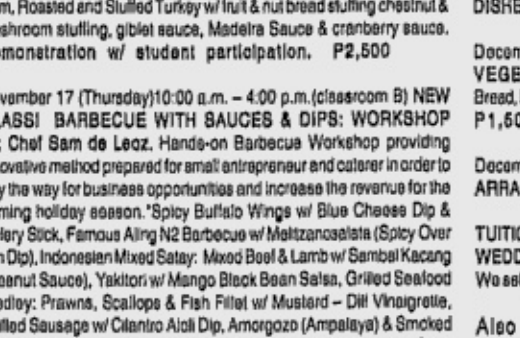
TUITION FEE includes ingredients. Reservation is required.
WEDDING & BIRTHDAY CAKE orders by appointment only.
We sell Cake Decorating, Confectionery and Baking Supplies.

Also available Christmas Goodie's from Heny's Kitchen

FOR RESERVATIONS & INQUIRIES visit or call us at:
33 Bonnie Serrano Avenue (formerly Santolan Road)
Quezon City
Telephone #: 726-5316 / 412-7792
E-mail: henysison@pacific.net.ph
Website: www.henysison.com

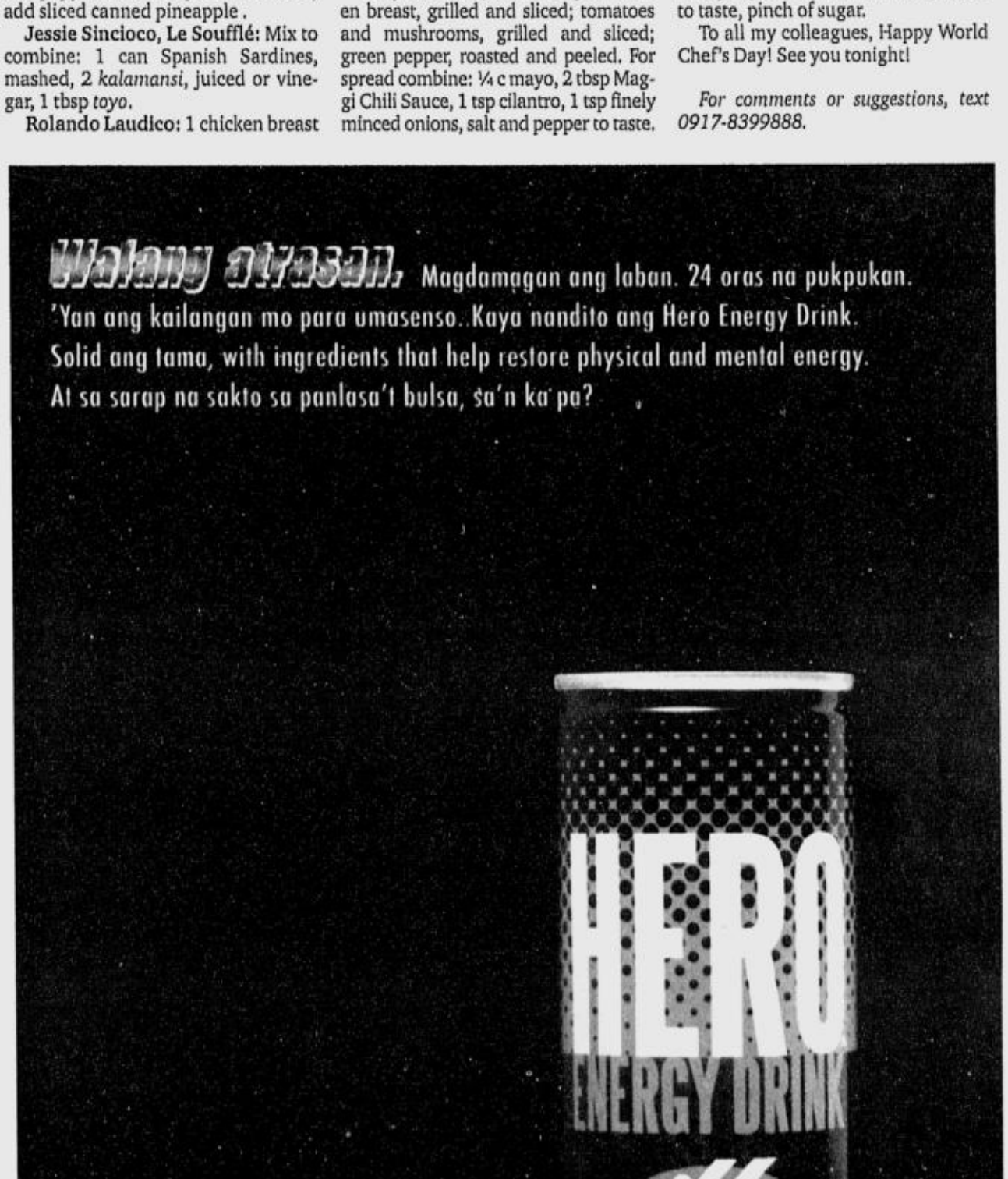
WATCH "A TASTE OF LIFE WITH HENY SISON" at IBC Channel 13 every Sunday, 11:00-12:00 noon

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER



Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB Market



■ LIFESTYLE / C1
Jennie's 5-must haves, Apples' designers to watch and Ria's beauty tools

■ BUSINESS / B5
Taipan John Gokongwei reveals secrets on being a billionaire

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-3
Sarah Jessica Parker: There's life after 'Sex and the City'

JOB Market at 10
Top-rate recruiter for top-rate firms; service to jobseekers

GMA flies to KL for funeral of Malaysian PM's wife

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ABRUPTLY left for Kuala Lumpur yesterday to attend the funeral of Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's wife, Endon Mahmood, who died after a four-year battle with breast cancer.

Accompanied by Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Ms Arroyo flew in a private jet that took off from Villamor Air Base in Pasay City

GMA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Mike A returns for 2nd time since self-imposed exile

By Nikko Dizon

LIKE THE ELDER SON OF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo, her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo is back in the country from a self-imposed exile in the United States.

Mike Arroyo, along with his other son Dato, Dato's wife Kakai, and their daughter Eva

MIKE/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Friday, October 21, 2005 | ★★ | 7 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 315 | P18 | website: www.inq7.net

FVR to GMA: Cut term

Andaya may be budget chief; Bunye 'rewarded'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

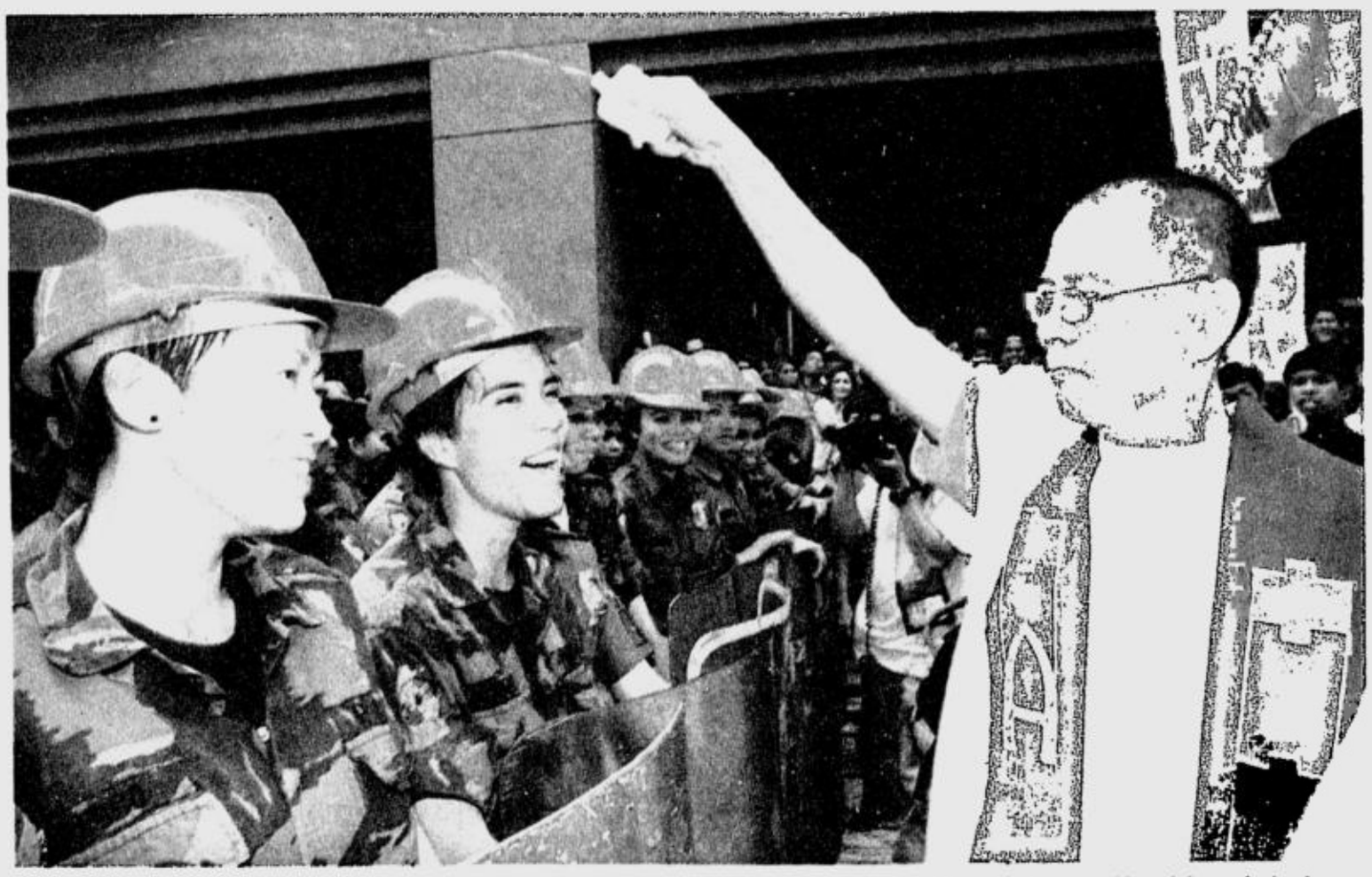
YET ANOTHER CHANGE IN THE Cabinet appears to be in the offing, with President Macapagal-Arroyo said to be seriously considering naming Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya as budget secretary and moving the incumbent Romulo Neri back to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

A Malacañang source yesterday said Andaya would be given the budget portfolio when he steps down at the end of the year from his current post as chair of the House committee on appropriations, which is overseeing the deliberations on the 2005 budget.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda is set to replace Andaya as appropriations chief next year, as part of a term-sharing deal struck last year by officials of the ruling Lakas Party.

Neri was named budget secretary only in July. Asked yesterday to comment on his supposed transfer back to the Neda, he said: "Anything is possible. It's all

ANDAYA/ A20



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU, not from the blast of a water cannon but from the gentle sprinkling of holy water. Hosed down during last Friday's rally, Fr. Robert Reyes turns the other cheek, blesses the antiriot policewomen at a rally near the Palace on Thursday. REM ZAMORA

'Support incidental for want of alternative'

By Daxim L. Lucas
Business
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESSING HIS CALL for President Macapagal-Arroyo to cut short her six-year term, former President Fidel V. Ramos yesterday said Ms Arroyo must subsume her personal goals to that of the "national interest."

"The higher the position, the greater the sacrifice," Ramos said in a speech before businessmen, adding that part of this sacrifice was "giving up a part of your elected term of office."

His remarks were roundly applauded by the businessmen, many of whom are members of the Makati Business Club, which has called on Ms Arroyo to step down following allegations that she stole last year's presidential election.

"If I have been supportive of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her position as President thus far that support is only secondary and incidental in the absence of a better alternative from the Makati Business Club, the Management Association of the Philippines and Finex (Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines) in the protection of that national interest," Ramos said.

The three business groups hosted the lunch at the Manila

FVR/ A21

Hey, guys, what about Noli?

By Juliet L. Javellana

WHAT ABOUT VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro?

De Castro's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, reminded all those talking about cutting Ms Arroyo's term to pave the way for the shift to the parliamentary-federal system of government in

HEY, GUYS/ A8

Catholic schools vow to seek truth about GMA

By Christian V. Esguerra

AMID GROWING PUBLIC APAthy, Roman Catholic schools under the wing of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and a prestigious Jesuit group have vowed to press on with their "search for truth" behind the scandals in the Arroyo administration.

"The worst thing that could happen now is to have the apathy spread because of [public] confusion," said Msgr. Gerardo Santos, director of the Manila Archdiocesan Parochial Schools Association.

He lamented that while it was obvious that the truth behind the political scandals that had engulfed President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration remained hidden, "people are simply indifferent to what is happening."

"They got fed up simply," said Santos, who also heads the Metro Manila chapter of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), the largest association of Catholic schools in the country that includes Ateneo, La Salle, San Beda and the Uni-

CATHOLIC/ A20

HEAVY RAINS cannot stop Fr. Raul Enriquez (center) from saying Mass for villagers and Greenpeace activists in Pagbilao, Quezon near the coal power plant which reportedly emits toxic substances. *(Story on Page A19.)* AFP

Do's, don't's set in the battle for Mendiola

By Luige A. del Puerto

STAY WITH THE PACK. AVOID the sidewalks, where plainclothesmen could "snatch" you. And most importantly, know the person beside you—he could be Big Brother's agent sent to sabotage the rally.

Rally leaders issued these "do's and don't's" to marchers on the eve of today's planned big push toward Malacañang by farmers, fishermen and other protesters which could lead to yet another confrontation with police and soldiers guarding the Palace.

The march will crown a six-day "Lakbayan" or People's March that began Sunday in provinces north and south of Manila and is to culminate with a planned march to Don Chino Roces (Mendiola) Bridge.

Organizers said simultaneous protests would be held in other key cities: Naga, Legazpi, Sorsogon, Masbate, Tacloban, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Tagbilaran, Davao and Sarangani.

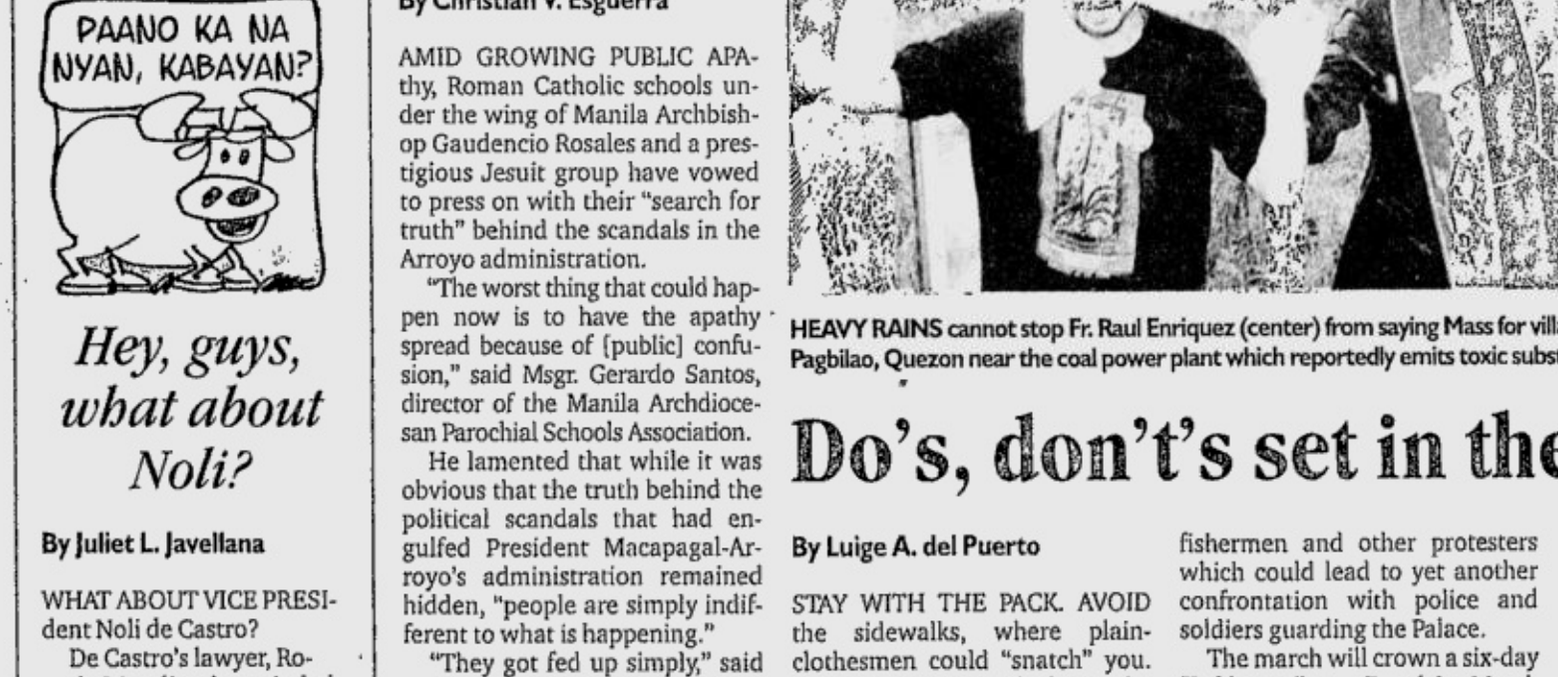
Police made it clear they would not allow the protesters to set foot on a historic bridge that had stood for decades as a symbol of a people's defiance against rulers perceived to be unjust.

"We're hoping everything will be well, but we have also prepared for a worst-case scenario," Philippine National Police spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said.

Director Vidal Querol, Metro Manila police chief, said up to 2,000 policemen, backed by 800 soldiers, would be deployed around Malac añang.

He said organizers had a permit to rally at the Liwasang Bonifacio and Plaza Miranda from 2 p.m. to around 6 p.m.—but not to

DO'S, DON'T'S/ A20



THE LONG WEARY line of farmers on the road now for the past six days traverses the Roxas Boulevard flyover approaching the Japanese Embassy. Coming from Calamba, Laguna, they will join the Mendiola rally set for today together with their counterparts from Northern Luzon. REM ZAMORA

In search of heroes, 40 artists form Dakila

By DJ Yap

ONE IS A BESPECTACLED and long-haired comedian whose nickname is a Filipino curse word. Another is a fine arts graduate and the bassist of the rock group Parokya ni Edgar.

The third is a poet-essayist and the front man of Radioactive Sago Project. The last is a veteran actor, who has appeared in modern film classics like "Oro Plata Mata."

They all want to be this generation's Jose Rizal.

Meet Tado Jimenez, Buwi Meneses, Lourd de Veyra and Ronnie Lazaro, who form the core of Dakila, the "Philippine Collective for Modern Heroism."

Anyone could be a hero, or even a super hero by "extending courtesy to one's elders, picking up a piece of garbage..., or planting a seedling, or questioning unjust laws like the VAT," Jimenez said.

IN SEARCH/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/10/21/05

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2005

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Arroyo lands a poser for DAR

By Blanche S. Rivera

DESPITE MARCHING ORDERS from President Macapagal-Arroyo to redistribute the agricultural estates belonging to her husband's family, agrarian reform officials are having difficulty carrying out the presidential directive with dispatch.

Department of Agrarian Reform officials admitted yesterday that half of the Arroyos' vast landholdings in Negros Occidental province totaling about 1,100 hectares were "problematic" and cannot as yet be processed for inclusion in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"We have a problem with the coverage of the 544 hectares ... The titles are not yet with the Arroyos," said Undersecretary Jeffery Galan.

He said the 544 ha spread out over five haciendas—Grande, Bacan, Alipion, Olimbo, Manolita-JMA—were either titled to corporations belonging to relatives of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo or their previous owners, who were also mostly relatives of Arroyo.

Portions of haciendas under CARP

But Galan said portions of the haciendas Olimbo and Manolita-JMA have already come under CARP. The DAR has also taken over the Camang-Camang, Manolita-Alaja and Manolita-JJ haciendas, totaling 555 ha, with almost 200 farmer beneficiaries already installed.

He said the pace at which the DAR has been processing the Arroyo haciendas for CARP was already fast considering the size of the landholdings.

The Task Force Mapalad farmers' group has alleged that the Arroyos have evaded CARP for years by allegedly subdividing their landholdings into small lots and distributing these to dummy corporations.

Data from the TFM showed that 12 corporations with titles to portions of one hacienda alone, the Hacienda Grande in La Castellana City, did not have records with the Securities and Exchange Commission as of June.

"The previous DAR administrations have not really focused on this, but we're studying how to process the lands for CARP even if they're not titled to the Arroyos," Galan said.

Battle of taipans for Naia 3 goes to SC

By Armand N. Nocum

THE BATTLE OF THE "TAIPANS" OVER THE NINOY Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 has reached the Supreme Court, with the Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. asking the high court to order the government to award to it the contract to operate the mothballed facility.

AEDC, which groups six of the country's top ethnic Chinese tycoons, asked the high court to stop the government from "negotiating, re-bidding, awarding or entering into a concession contract with any third parties" for the operation of the terminal.

AEDC lawyers said the prohibition must cover the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), which won the bidding to construct the controversial terminal.

In May 2003, the tribunal nullified the $650 million contract between the government and Piatco for the Naia 3, on the ground that it was grossly disadvantageous to the government.

The government expropriated the facility last December but has been unable to operate it because of a number of lawsuits. One of these is the arbitration case filed before the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes by Piatco's German-based partner, Fraport, which is seeking to be reimbursed its $425 million investment in Naia 3.

Recently, however, Fraport agreed to sell its Piatco stake for $200 million to a consortium headed by Chinese-Filipino tycoon Emilio Yap, the owner of the Manila Hotel.

This development prompted AEDC, the original proponent of the Naia 3 project before it was awarded to Piatco, to revive its interest in the terminal project.

Lawyer Perfecto Yasay, who led the team of AEDC lawyers that petitioned the high court, said the AEDC, "being the recognized and unchallenged original proponent, has the exclusive, clear and vested statutory right to the award" of the Naia 2 project.

Established in 1993, AEDC was originally composed of ethnic Chinese tycoons John Gokongwei, Andrew Gotianun, Henry Sy Sr., George Sy, Alfonso Yuchengco and Lucio Tan. Tan is said to be the only one left in the consortium now.

In the petition, AEDC argued that the Supreme Court ruling against Piatco "restored petitioner AEDC to its preferred status as the unchallenged original proponent" of the Naia 3 project.

Citing of RA 6957, as amended by RA 771, or the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, it said that AEDC was automatically entitled to the award of the Naia 3 project as a matter of "clear statutory right."

Yasay said in a press briefing that the AEDC's legal move would not lead to a further delay of the airport's opening.

Drug to combat bird flu may soon be produced locally

By Christian V. Esguerra

A DRUG THAT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY doctors as a possible defense against bird flu but is currently beyond the reach of millions of people throughout the world may soon be manufactured locally, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said yesterday.

He said this became a possibility after the Swiss pharmaceutical giant Roche, the exclusive producer of Tamiflu, agreed to relax restrictions on the unlicensed manufacture of the drug, which it has patented.

"If we can get the license, we can easily facilitate (the reproduction) in a span of three months," Duque told reporters at the First Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health Forum in Makati. He said he expects such a license to be obtained within the year.

Bowing to intense pressure from many countries, Roche announced it would allow other companies or governments to manufacture Tamiflu, which is not exactly a proven cure for bird flu although it is widely considered effective against a variety of known human influenza strains.

Until Roche's announcement, Duque said the Philippine government was dependent on its order of 10,000 Tamiflu capsules worth P1.7 million. Because worldwide demand was high, he said Roche was not expected to deliver until January next year.

Duque said this initial supply would be given to people in the poultry industry because they are in direct contact with chickens, ducks, turkeys and other fowls which are likely the first to be infected in case of a bird flu pandemic.

The Roche decision would allow local production of Tamiflu despite an existing patent recognized by members of the World Trade Organization, including the Philippines. A patent usually runs for 20 years during which no other company could manufacture the drug without a license from the patent holder.

Certain "flexibilities" provided for by the Intellectual Property Rights Agreement allow local production or importation of patented drugs such as "in times of emergency," according to lawyer Ireneo Galicia, deputy director general of the Intellectual Property Office.

"When the supply of certain medicines is inadequate, the government can bring in these medicines to the country without the consent of the patent holder," he said in an interview last Friday.

Flu screening for SEA Games

THE PHILIPPINES WILL screen athletes competing in next month's Southeast Asian Games for bird flu amid heightened fear the deadly virus may spread, the health secretary said yesterday.

"We will have strict screening measures that's for sure," said Health Secretary Francisco Duque.

He said the Philippines would set up thermal scanners at airports to check if any arrivals were suffering from fever.

If someone is detected to be ill, "we will isolate them, then we will find out what is the cause of the fever. If this is influenza, we will determine what type of influenza so we can do some immediate laboratory diagnostics," said Duque.

The deadly H5N1 strain of the avian influenza virus has already killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003 and is now spreading to Europe and Russia, fueling fears of a global influenza pandemic.

Although the deadly strain of the bird flu virus has been detected in neighboring Asian countries, it still has not been found in the Philippines.

Duque justified the strict measures, remarking that even if avian influenza does not reach the Philippines, any rumors of infections in this country could hurt the economy and cause social instability. *AFP*

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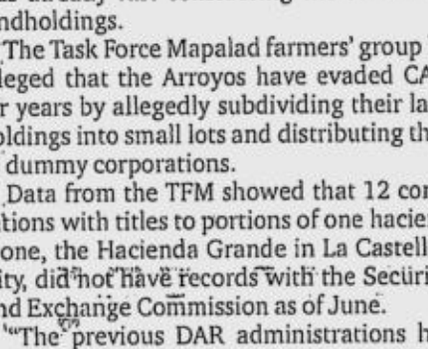
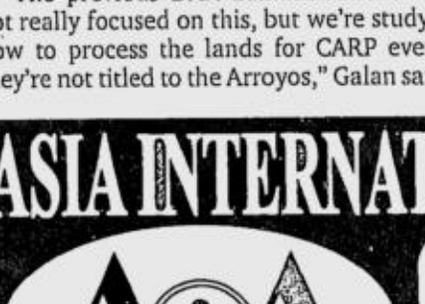


CAT 320

29 - WHEEL LOADERS



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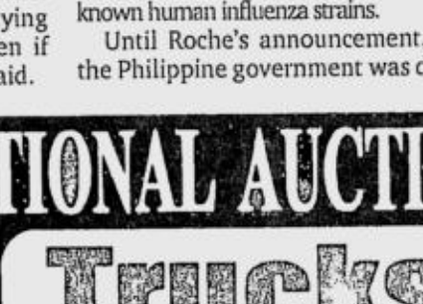
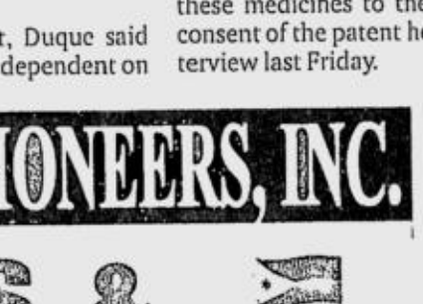
15 - CAB & CHASSIS



FUSO FIGHTER CAB & CHASSIS

68 - ALUMINUM VANS



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27 - MOTOR GRADERS

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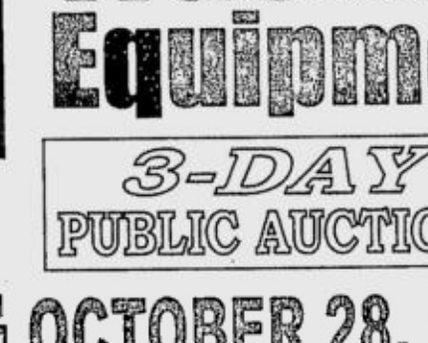
164 - CARGO TRUCKS



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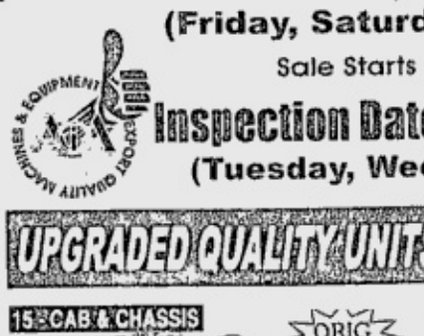

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House leaders, local execs form coalition for shift to parliament

By Michael Lim Ubac

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND LOCAL officials yesterday formed a new "coalition" seeking to ensure a shift to a parliamentary government and unicameral legislature and assert President Macapagal-Arroyo's mandate to remain in power until 2010.

In an 18-point joint declaration signed at the Manila Hotel, the majority coalition of the House of Representatives and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) bound themselves to the initiative calling for an immediate shift to a parliamentary system.

Speaker Jose de Venecia led administration lawmakers in signing the document with Ulap members headed by Gov. Erico Aumentando, who is also president of the League of Provinces, and Mayor Ramon Guico, Ulap vice president and national president of the League of Municipalities.

Term must be respected

But instead of cutting short the term of President Arroyo to pave the way for massive structural changes in the political system, paragraph 11 of the declaration said: "We declare that the term of the incumbent President must be respected."

In exchange for protecting the President's six-year term, term limits for local officials and members of the soon-to-be-created national assembly would be lifted, and elections held every five years.

"We believe that holding elections once every five years under this proposal will undo the cycle of costly elections that have become among the root causes of corruption," the coalition said in its declaration.

Following the signing, De Venecia reiterated that the parliamentary setup would "break the gridlock and current political crisis that poses a very serious threat to the state and the Filipino people."

The document would be submitted to Congress as input into plenary debates on the committee report and resolution calling on the Senate and the House of Representatives to constitute as a Constituent Assembly to introduce amendments to the Constitution.

Vision for the Philippines

De Venecia and Aumentado said the document presented a vision for the Philippines to achieve "comparable economic prosperity with our neighbors by 2015" and a program to shift the country away from the gridlock, crises, costly elections, heavy indebtedness and social injustice produced by decades of bicameral presidential system.

Also signing the joint declaration for the House majority bloc were Deputy Speaker Emilio Espinosa, Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments; and Reps. Douglas Cagas, Exequiel Javier and Junie Cua.

Among those who witnessed the signing were Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson of the League of Provinces, and Governors Adolph Edward Plaza of Agusan del Norte, Leandro Verceles of Catanduanes and L. Ray Villafuerte of Camarines Sur; and members of the Constitutional Commission currently reviewing the 1987 Constitution – chair Jose Abueva, Victor Ortega, Carmen Pedrosa, Lito Lorenzana, Ronald Adamat and Oscar Rodriguez.

US has stake in next Ombudsman

THE CHOICE OF WHO WILL BE THE NEXT Ombudsman will be crucial to the country's bid for eligibility to a United States aid program favoring governments that score major victories against graft, according to US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Paul Jones.

Washington shared the country's "great interest" on whoever would replace outgoing Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo and how he would prosecute the fight against corruption, Jones said Wednesday before the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines.

The diplomat said access to the Bush administration's Millennium Challenge Account largely hinged on the success of a country's anti-graft campaign.

Set up three years ago, the MCA is a special funding program which offers an incentive for aid-seeking countries to promote transparency and fiscal discipline, among other targets.

With a total fund of $1.5 billion in 2005, the MCA has set good governance as a chief requirement for these countries to ensure that the funds will not be misspent.

Only 16 countries were allowed to tap the MCA last year. The Philippines – which is aiming for the maximum per-country share of $20 million – is competing with around 60 other states for eligibility.

Jones described the MCA as "a whole new way of offering assistance because it rewards progress in good governance, investing in people, and economic freedom."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NBI won't arrest Bro. Eddie

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ALMOST A MONTH AFTER JUSTICE SECRETARY Raul Gonzalez instructed the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to arrest Bro. Eduardo "Eddie" Villanueva on charges of estafa, NBI officials have remained steadfast in refusing to follow his orders.

"Brother Eddie is charged with a very simple case of estafa," NBI Interpol chief and spokesperson Ricardo Diaz said. He added that the Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court does not need the NBI to serve the arrest warrant.

Diaz also emphasized that the Mandaluyong police station has primary jurisdiction in the service of the warrant.

"Besides, everybody knows who he is—a religious and a political leader known to make anti-administration statements," Diaz said.

Diaz added, "Judging from his recent pronouncements that he would not post bail upon his arrest, he is turning this estafa case into a political issue which the NBI would not ride on."

The bureau official also said that if their agents arrest Villanueva, he may accuse the administration of using the NBI as "an attack dog."

Diaz said they believe that the DOJ secretary would delegate the duty to the Mandaluyong police.

"But if ever we are really required to serve the warrant, we would immediately turn him over to the court," the NBI official said.

Sources at the bureau said that if the religious leader would be detained at the NBI jail, thousands of his followers may camp at the headquarters to express support.

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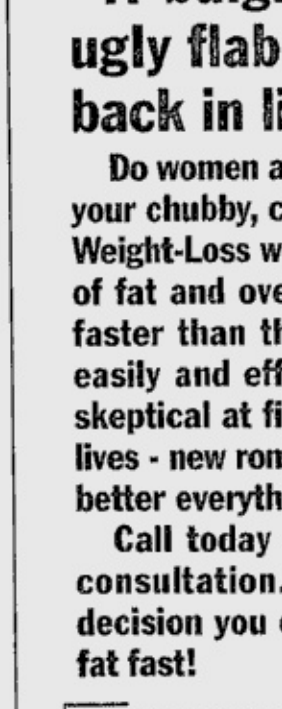

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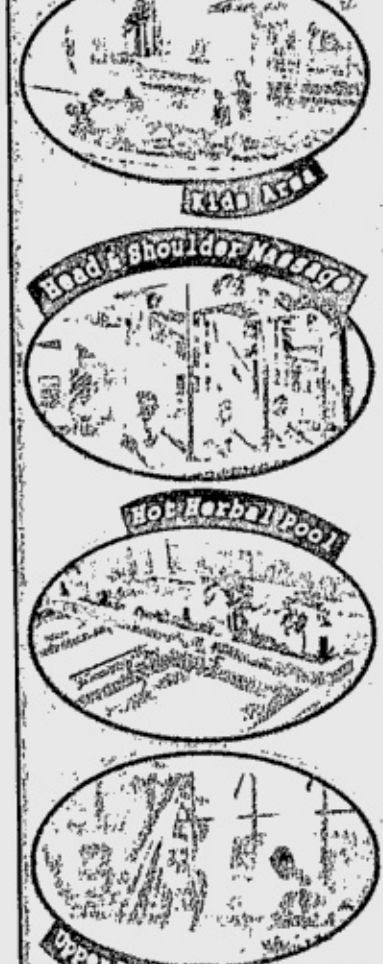

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AFP links 'Ka Satur' to explosives

By Fe Zamora and Michael Lim Ubac

GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAVE RECOVERED two sacks of explosives allegedly intended to be used by the New People's Army to sow terror and hasten the downfall of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the military announced yesterday.

Speaking at a news conference, four generals cited letters purportedly written by NPA guerrillas stating that the explosives were purchased with P5 million provided by a "Ka Satur" and implicating militant associations identified with opposition Rep. Satur Ocampo, who branded the allegations as "dirty tricks" to depict him as a terrorist.

They said the explosives could be used in opposition rallies, similar to the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing where a grenade was lobbed at a Liberal Party pre-election rally.

"And this thing might happen again. We know the character of these people; they will sacrifice many lives just to achieve what they want," said Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the Northern Luzon command, who spoke alternately in English and Filipino.

The Plaza Miranda bombing left nine dead, and and more than 100 wounded, including Sen. Jovito Salonga and other Liberal Party stalwarts. It led to the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus by President Ferdinand Marcos, who blamed communist rebels but was was widely suspected of having ordered the bombing. In the late '80s, however, an NPA guerrilla claimed he lobbed the grenade.

Armed Forces deputy chief of staff Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin said the explosives, along with 12 firearms and documents, were recovered by soldiers following two encounters with the NPA in Barangay Dimanayat, San Luis, Aurora last Sept. 27 and 28.

The military, however, did not disclose the encounter until just a day before a planned anti-Arroyo rally in downtown Manila.

While the generals would not categorically say that the Ka Satur mentioned in the letters was Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, Tolentino left no room for speculation. "What is mentioned here is a person named Ka Satur. I think you are intelligent enough to discern who this person is."

The organizations were identified in the letters only by their initials: BM, AP, AB, which are those of Bayan Muna, Anak Pawis and Anak Bayan, all previously identified by the military as communist fronts.

The disclosure of the "spurious letters" amounted to a "death warrant," Ocampo said. "Now, every junior officer in the field will hunt me."

"Feels like '71 all over again," said Ocampo, recalling the staged bombings and fake assassination attempt on Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile that preceded Marcos' declaration of Martial Law.

"But the implications are staggering. Please remember that the worsening hate campaign against me and Bayan Muna courtesy of the generals and their bosses in Malacañang have resulted in the death of many of our members and the burning of our offices," he said.

Naia immigration girds for SEA Games

IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AT THE NINOY Aquino International Airport (Naia) have begun their training under the Bangkok-based Immigration Control Experts (ICE) in preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, which will be held in Manila next month.

Ferdinand Sampol, Naia immigration head of supervisors, said the training would include detecting tampered passports, passenger assessment or profiling, and counter terrorism.

Sampol said that the Bureau of Immigration would be stepping up its screening procedure during the SEA Games as the event could be taken advantage of by terrorists.

Forty immigration officers from the monitoring and enforcement unit and the task force against antiterrorism attended yesterday's training conducted by immigration experts from the US Embassy, Sampol said. *Nikko Dizon*

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		45,000	95,000	90 ,000	100,000

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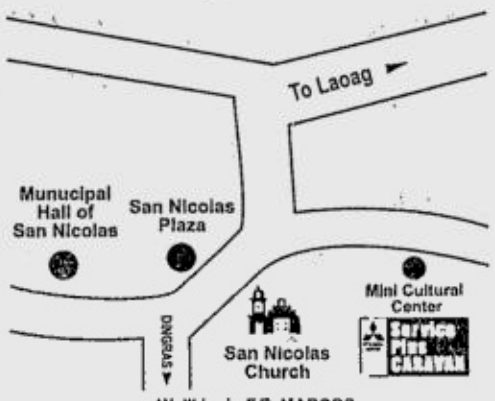

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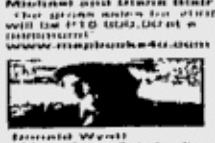
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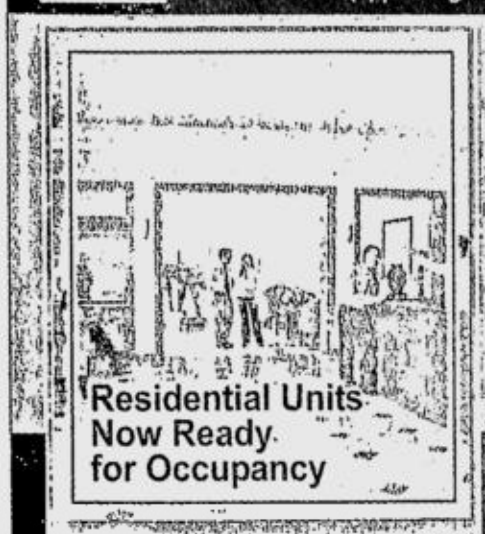

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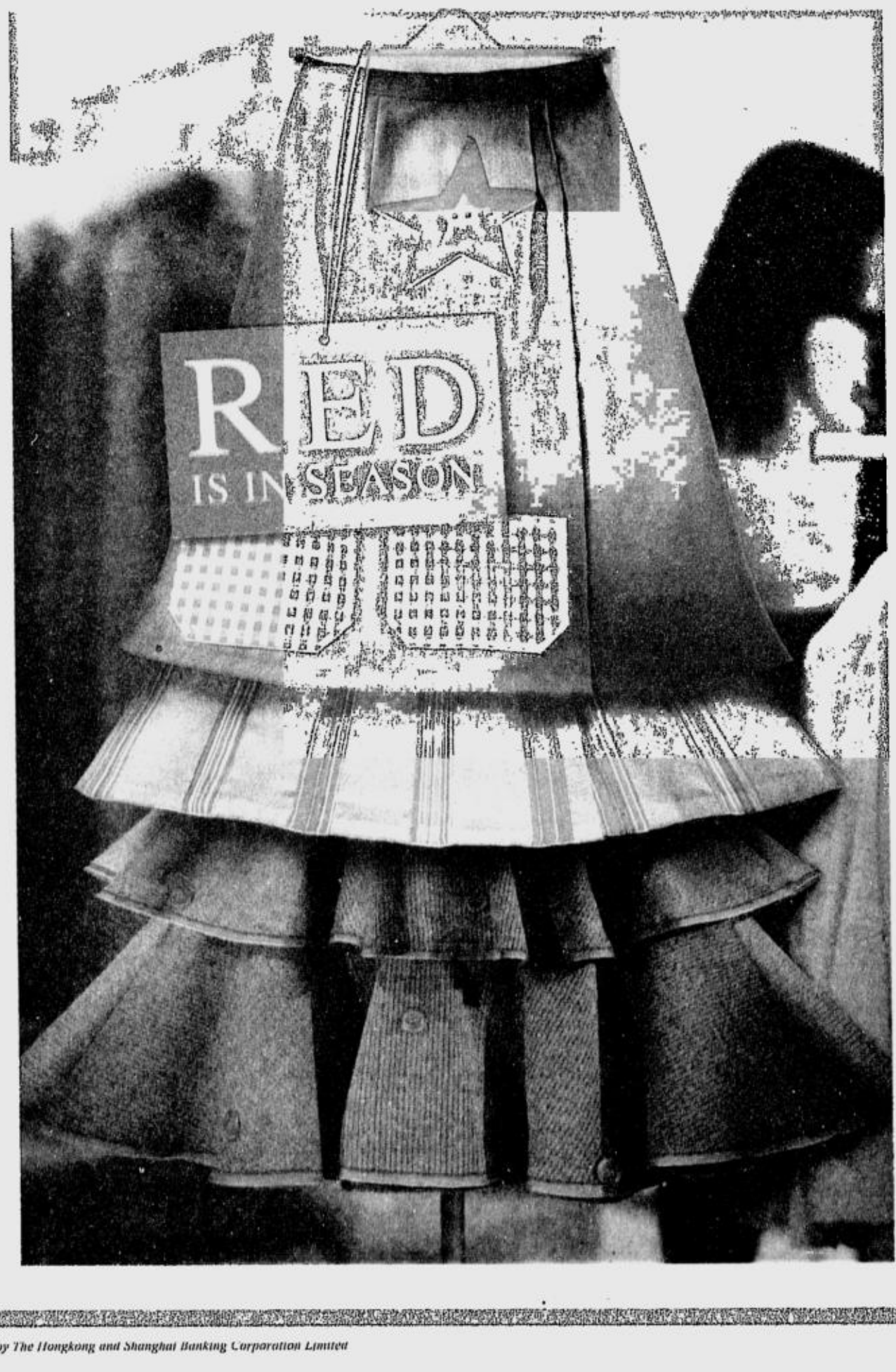

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Casa Y Jardin Bazaar	Oct. 23	Grand Ballroom, Hotel InterContinental
StreetShops Bazaar at The Fort	Oct. 29-30	The Fort Plaza (in front of Fort Strip)
Inner Wheel Club of Manila Bazaar: Sari-Saring Shopping, Sari-Saring Tulong 2005	Nov. 5	Hall A, World Trade Center
Tiangge sa Valle Verde The Second Coming	Nov. 12	Valle Verde 1 Clubhouse

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Messages

Malacañang Palace
Manila

I greet the personnel, medical and administrative staff of Far-Eastern University-Dr Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center as you celebrate your 50th Anniversary.

Congratulations for doing a good job in providing quality medical services to our countrymen. Through fifty years of professional health and medical care, your institution has earned the reputation as a center of excellence in the medical field.

I seek your cooperation and support as we strive to improve the quality of public health facilities and services, reduce the cost of medicines, and promote a better quality of life for our people. With your help and prayers, the Philippines shall beat the odds!

Happy anniversary and more power to all of you!

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Manila
21 October 2005

My warmest greetings to the men and women of the Far Eastern University-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center (FEU-NRMFMC) as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, with the theme "Living Up To Our Legacy: Excellence in Health Care."

This October occasion serves to remind us of the essential role that you play in shaping the future of our country's health care system. Providing quality health to all is still an indispensable factor in achieving sustainable progress and development. It is for this reason that we, in the health sector, must work together to accomplish this and enable our people to live healthy and productive lives.

The Department of Health commends your accomplishments in providing quality and affordable health care services. I wish you all a successful celebration.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Francisco T. Duque III, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary Of Health

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

On behalf of the Professional Regulation Commission, I convey my warmest congratulations to the Far Eastern University – Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center (FEU – NRMF) on it's 50th Anniversary.

The theme, "Living Up to our Legacy: Excellence in Health Care," is a fitting tribute to the men and women of the FEU – NRMF for their dedication and resolve to provide quality healthcare services to our people. Through the years, it has sustained its commitment to academic excellence by its demonstrated capacity to nurture and produce technically-competent and ethically-conscious medical professionals.

In this historical milestone, the PRC offers a hand of partnership to the FEU-NRMF in our combined commitment to raise high the bar of competence and excellence among our professionals.

Mabuhay!

LEONOR T. ROSERO
Chairperson

Philippine Medical Association

With warm and sincere felicitations, the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association greet you, the officers and staff of the FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center on the observance of your 50th Anniversary.

It is indeed gratifying to bask and to exult in the glory and successes of this healthcare institution. You adoptive theme, "Living Up to Our Legacy: Excellence in Health Care," truly underscores the important role it plays in the efficient and effective health care delivery in the country. It further signifies its strong resolve to confront health challenges, and to pursue its noble commitment to the professional advancement of its medical staff and personnel.

Congratulations! Mabuhay ang FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center!

MODESTO O. LLAMAS, M.D.
President

Greeting from the Philippine Hospital Association!

It is an honor and a privilege for me to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the management and staff of the FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center as it celebrates its 50th Foundation Anniversary on October 21-22, 2005.

Five decades of providing health care services to our countrymen – from the time it was established in one of the busiest areas in Manila to the time it grew and developed into a world class health facility where it is now located – is indeed an achievement that is worth commemorating. One important contribution of your institution to the delivery of health care in our country is the training and development of many of our health professionals, most especially physicians in the various fields of specialization. It is a fact that some of the best doctors we have in the country are the products of your training program. Your theme, therefore, entitled "Living Up to Our Legacy of Excellence in Health Care" encompasses not just the services you provide our people but it expresses, as well, the valuable contribution you render to our nation in the field of medical science through the years.

With that note I would like to congratulate all those who, in one way or another, have been a part of the growth and development of one of the country's finest medical centers.

Thank you very much and Mabuhay!

Tiburcio S. Macias, M.D., MHA
President

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

August 5, 2005

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the officers and members of The Far Eastern University-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center on the occasion of you 50th anniversary celebration on October 21-22, 2005.

I take pride in your organization and in your quest for professional excellence in the field of medical health. Your noble commitment to improving the health care system in our city is truly commendable and worthy of praise and recognition. Your dedication and devotion to our constituents is an example of public service worth emulating.

I salute the Far Eastern University-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center for your continued support to the Quezon City Government by providing our people with excellent health care services.

Maraming salamat po at mabuhay kayong lahat.

Mary Ann L. Susano
Representative
2nd District, Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
Office of the Mayor

The Quezon City government joins the people of FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY – DR. NICANOR REYES MEDICAL FOUNDATION MEDICAL CENTER in the celebration of its 50th Anniversary.

For half a century, your center has been diligently serving the hospitalization and medical needs of the city constituents, most especially the less fortunate, providing them with the latest hospital facilities and the most learned medical faculties.

Your theme: "Living Up to Our Legacy: Excellence in Health Care" manifests your massive contribution to our over-all health and welfare, pronouncing your dedication to become a hardworking partner of the city government in its ongoing efforts to transform our city into a premier metropolis.

The health programs and projects of the city government, like the Sagip Buhay Medical Care, Philhealth Medical Insurance and subsidy for the poor, and our Health Child and Birth-to-Grave programs would not have been as successful, had it not been for the unity and collaboration of the city's medical institutions like yours.

As we celebrate the 66th Foundation Anniversary of Quezon City this October, we are all proud to say that our wish for Quezon City to become a Quality City is already within our grasp.

Congratulations and MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.
City Mayor

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
DR. NICANOR REYES MEDICAL FOUNDATION

On our fiftieth anniversary we have good reason to rejoice and thank the Lord for bringing the hospital to where it is and what it is today.

We remember with respect and affection the pioneers of this institution who passed on the legacy of excellence in health care which the hospital staff strives to live up to, year in and year out.

We are grateful to the many dedicated doctors, nurses, attendants, orderlies, dieticians, laboratory technicians, pharmacists and employees of the support staff. Without their efforts, the hospital would not have progressed to its present status. We express our appreciation to all the patients who entrusted their health and medical care to the institution. I think everyone tried their best to live up to your expectations. Let us continue to pray for God's blessings and guidance as we renew our efforts towards the fulfillment of the hospital's mission.

Congratulations to the FEU-NRMF Medical Center.

Josephine C. Reyes
Chairman
Board of Trustees

My warmest congratulations to our beloved FEU-NRMF Medical Center on the occasion of its 50th anniversary on October 22, 2005.

For half a century, our institution has been living up to its legacy of rendering excellent health care in meeting the medical needs of the community. It has continually offered competent, caring and compassionate health care professionals imbued with the highest ethical, moral and social standards.

It is also but proper and fitting that we honor the memory of the pioneers – who are considered to be "Who's who" in their respective fields – for laying the groundwork in the pursuance of excellent health care. Kudos also, to the present workforce and prime movers who have sustained such legacy and aimed for an excellent future for the medical center.

As we celebrate, let us thank the Lord Almighty for all the graces bestowed upon us.

Again, Congratulations and Mabuhay.

Reynaldo B. De Vega, M.D.
Medical Director
FEU-NRMF Medical Center

In the five decades since its founding, there is perhaps, no partner prouder of the FEU-Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation legacy than we at Wyeth.

For it is quite the honor to be closely associated with an institution that stands among the country's premier health care providers.

We salute you for continuing to uphold the values of service excellence, technical competence and high ethical standards. And we thank you for what is, undoubtedly, your greatest contribution: the education, training and development – indeed, the raising – of generation upon generation of professionals committed to caring for the health of the nation.

Truly, we are fortunate to have allies such as you in the fulfillment of the mission we share.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

Perpetuo "Boy" M. de Claro
President and General Manager
Wyeth-Philippines Inc.

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
DR. NICANOR REYES MEDICAL FOUNDATION
MEDICAL CENTER

50th Anniversary

– OCTOBER 21-22, 2005 –

Living Up To Our Legacy: Excellence In Health Care

By Naomi S. Nocheseda, M.D., F.P.P.S.

REVISITING THE PAST

On October 22, 1955, the Far Eastern University Hospital opened its doors as a charitable institution, standing tall on a trapezoidal lot at the northeast part of the FEU campus along Morayta Street in Manila. Built and equipped at a cost of 1.5 million pesos, the hospital was designed by Architect Felipe M. Mendoza in collaboration with the Hospital Committee chaired by Dr. Lauro H. Panganiban, Nicanor Reyes, Jr., Angel Palanca and Dr. Ricardo L. Alfonso, who was also named its first hospital director while serving as professor and head of the Department of Surgery.

The 5-storey building, which included a penthouse, was made of reinforced concrete on floating foundation, and finished with marble, terrazzo, glass and ceramic tiles. It was designed to have a capacity of 125 charity beds, 56 pay patient beds and 28 bassinets. Teodoro Evengalista, then FEU President, cited the reasons for building the hospital: to provide actual hospital training for the students of the Institutes of Medicine and Nursing and to provide medical services, specially through its charity wards.

The hospital has remained faithful to these two noble commitments. In 1963, less than 10 years after its foundation, it underwent massive renovation to double its bed capacity to 350 units, 250 of which were devoted to service charity patients. It also started to develop the facilities and services required of a teaching university hospital.

A formidable team of clinical department heads pioneered the training of future medical practitioners. Most of them have become legends in their lifetime. Dr. Fe del Mundo, later named as National Scientist, headed the Department of Pediatrics; Dr. Carlos Sevilla chaired the Opthalmology Department; Dr. Gloria Aragon, the OB-GYN Department; Dr. Liborio Gomez, the Pathology Department; Dr. Jose Tirona, the X-Ray Department; Dr. Perpetuo Gutierrez, the Medicine Department; and Dr. Jesus Nolasco, the Physiology Deparment.

Early pictures of the hospital show that it dominated the Morayta landscape. Soon after it was built, different establishments rose alongside, one after another, making the hospital an attractive beehive for other commercial activities. Across Claro M. Recto Avenue, in front of Morayta, there was the Ever Gotesco Building which, to this day, houses a cinema and a supermarket. Along Morayta were the MWF, Hickory and Syvel's shoe stores, Shim Shim restaurant for the best kikiam rice, hot makimi, and delicious chopsuey rice. Pinky Pop offered the mouthwatering clubhouse sandwich and banana split. The first McDonald's store was near the corner of Morayta and Recto Avenue. The famous pancit bihon of Nitz and Dyango became the hot meal for weary patients and medical interns alike.

THE TRANSFER

As early as the 1970s, word went around that the hospital and the Institute of Medicine would both be relocated in Quezon City, something which, many say, was a dream and original plan of the late Dr. Nicanor Reyes, Jr. Years passed, however, and no transfer materialized, making everybody quickly dismiss it as plain rumor.

It was the sheer determination of Dr. Josephine C. Reyes, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, that, against all odds, turned this dream, to a reality. Staying true to the noble commitment of the founding fathers of the hospital half a century ago, Dr. Reyes was determined that the hospital would embark on a journey to a glorious centennial. With a vision and passion for providing excellent training for medical students and state-of-the-art medical facilities for a growing number of students and patients, Dr. Reyes harnessed all support from everyone who shared her vision. She counted on the goodwill of the alumni here and abroad, financial institutions and other private donors to make sure that the FEU-NRMF would be able to purchase and acquire the one and a half hectares of land along Regalado St., West Fairview, Quezon City and commence the construction of the 500 million peso modern medical school and hospital.

In December 22, 1996, Dr. Josephine C. Reyes, presided over the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new building. Also present were some members of the Board of Trustees, which included the late Dr. Ricardo L. Alfonso, Hector del Rosario, and Mr. Nicanor C. Reyes III, hospital officials like Dr. Lilia P. Luna, then medical director, and Dr. Flordeliza M. Baltazar, then Dean of the Institute of Medicine.

In 2001, the new facilities of the Medical Foundation were formally inaugurated. The Most Reverend Bishop Nestor Carino officiated the mass and blessing which was graciously attended by no less than former President Corazon C. Aquino as guest of honor.

At present, the hospital operates with 141 pay beds, 99 charity beds and boasts of state-of-the-art facilities, at par with other leading tertiary hospitals. It also provides ample parking space for patients, visitors and hospital personnel.

A NOBLE CAUSE

Even at the time of its establishment, the FEU Hospital was considered a noteworthy institution for training doctors, nurses and medical practitioners. It dedicated itself as a charitable institution and devoted 75% of its services to the poor and the masses. Up to now, the institute remains loyal to these causes. To date, the foundation continues to serve the underprivileged at minimum cost through the Ambulatory Unit, and has community-based health programs that have reached and served communities in Dagatdagatan,Malabon, Barangay San Bartolome, Quezon City, and Sitio Republic in Barangay Holy Spirit. At present, it serves communities in Cluster A Group 13 Payatas Trese, in partnership with Couples for Christ-Gawad Kalinga Project. The different clinical departments have their own outreach programs and medical missions as well. Heeding the call for social responsibility, the noble work of the hospital continues.

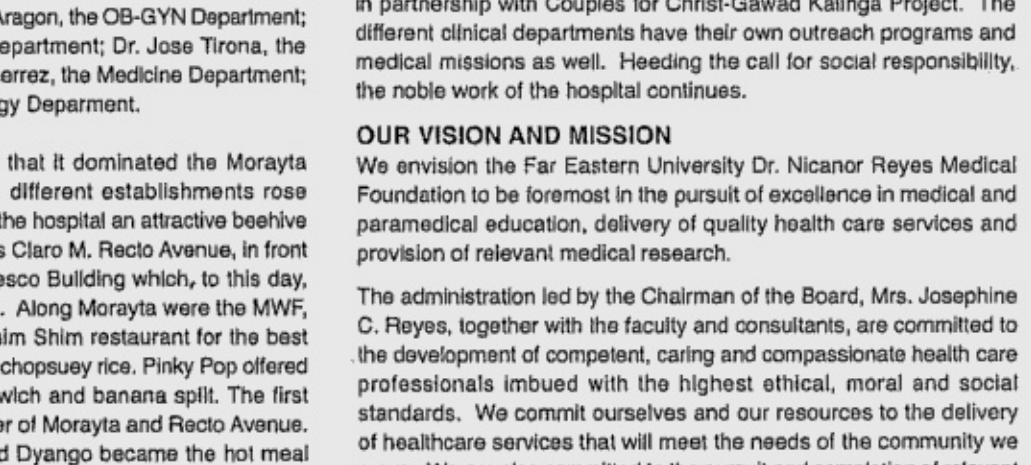
OUR VISION AND MISSION

We envision the Far Eastern University Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation to be foremost in the pursuit of excellence in medical and paramedical education, delivery of quality health care services and provision of relevant medical research.

The administration led by the Chairman of the Board, Mrs. Josephine C. Reyes, together with the faculty and consultants, are committed to the development of competent, caring and compassionate health care professionals imbued with the highest ethical, moral and social standards. We commit ourselves and our resources to the delivery of healthcare services that will meet the needs of the community we serve. We are also committed to the pursuit and completion of relevant research studies that will uphold the health and health-related needs of our countrymen.

THE LEGACY

Fifty years ago, the plan and vision of the founding fathers of the FEU – Dr. Nicanor Reyes Sr. and his son Dr. Nicanor Reyes, Jr. – to include a school of medicine and hospital came into reality. The institution was dedicated to the training of nurses, doctors and the advancement of the medical profession, to safeguard the health of the Filipino people, and achieve optimum health care. Ultimately, this contributes to the strength and wealth of the nation. Half a century later, this legacy continues to uphold the tradition of faithful health service to the Filipino people.



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

October 21, 2005 (Friday) Day 1

6:00-6:30 AM	Assembly time at Shell Gas Station (Philcoa)
6:30-9:00 AM	Motorcade along Commonwealth Avenue and Fairview
9:00-10:00 AM	Celebration of the Holy Mass to be officiated by Bishop Antonio Tobias Dr. Ricardo Alfonso Hall
10:00-11:00 AM	Opening Activities Launching of the Commemorative Book "Gift of Healing" by Ms. Marisse Reyes-c-Murray Ribbon cutting by Mrs. Josephine C. Reyes assisted by the members of the Board of Trustees, Dean and the Medical Director
11:00-12:00 NN	Viewing of Posters "Through the Years" and Trade Exhibits FEU – NRMF Medical Center Lobby and Hospitals Grounds
12:00-1:00 PM	LUNCH
1:30-4:00 PM	Search for the FEU – NRMF Singing Idol

October 22, 2005 (Saturday) Day 2

9:00-12:00 NN -	Seminar on Self-Enhancement Power dressing: Ms. Margarita delos Reyes-Cojuangco Life's Winning Points Mr. Francis Kong Wealth Wellness Mr. Mario T. Miranda
12:00-1:00 PM -	LUNCH
1:00-4:00 PM -	Cultural Presentation FEU – NRMF Hospital Grounds
5:00-6:00 PM -	Awarding and Recognition of Service Awardees
6:00-9:00 PM -	Fellowship Night "Retro '50s and '60s"

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Japanese envoy expresses remorse over WW II

PALO, LEYTE— Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Ryuichiro Yamazaki yesterday expressed a "deep sense of remorse" for the atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Yamazaki was the first Japanese ambassador to attend the annual celebration of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's landing at Leyte's Red Beach since the historic event's 50th anniversary in 1994. The provincial government had been sending invitations since then to the Japanese Embassy but it was only now that it sent a representative.

"As I stand on this shore, I am moved by a deep sense of remorse and reflections over the tragic fate of all those who have fought to defend this country against the atrocities of Japanese military aggression," he said in a speech during ceremonies marking 61st anniversary of the Leyte Landing. The celebration was held at the MacArthur National Memorial Park in Barangay Candahug here.

"Furthermore, I am happy to note and welcome the noble spirit of reconciliation and the sense of fairness on the part of the Filipino people in appreciating Japan as we are now a nation based on democracy, freedom and respect for basic human right," Yamazaki said.

Expressing Japan's "unwavering commitment as friend and partner," the envoy added he was confident that Filipino-Japanese relations "will overcome the many challenges we face and ultimately bring out peace and prosperity for all."

Vice President Noli de Castro devoted his keynote address to the war on poverty and terrorism which he said was harder to fight than a frontal conflict such as World War II.

"How do we fight a force that thrives on threat and how do we defeat an enemy that has no face? The war against on terrorism and poverty will not be won by superior arms but rather by superior spirit," he said.

Foreign representatives who attended the ceremonies were Maj. Paul Rosenzweig, assistant defense attaché at the Australian Embassy; Steven Rheault Kihara, the Canadian's Embassy's counselor for political and economic affairs; Capt. Robert Bailey, British defense attaché; and Maj. James Norcross, US defense attaché.

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GMA flies to KL for funeral ...

From page A1

at 12:35 p.m. She is expected to be back in Manila by Thursday midnight, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"President Arroyo went to Malaysia to personally convey her condolence to the Prime Minister," Bunye told reporters.

Endon's sudden death prompted Ms Arroyo to cancel her afternoon trip to Ormoc City, which was celebrating the 56th anniversary of its establishment as a chartered city.

Beloved figure

On Thursday morning, the President spoke at a symposium marking the 48th founding anniversary of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines at the Century Park Sheraton in Pasay City.

The death of Endon, which came weeks after she and Abdullah marked their 40th wedding anniversary, is the biggest personal blow to the Malaysian leader since he took office in October 2003 following the retirement of his predecessor, longtime leader Mahathir Mohamad.

The 64-year-old Endon, a publicly beloved figure who recently underwent intensive chemotherapy in the United States, passed away surrounded by her family at their official residence on Thursday morning in Putrajaya, Malaysia's administrative capital.

No final words

She was in a semiconscious state and spoke no final words, according to her son, Abdullah Kamaluddin.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said Abdullah had accepted his wife's death, although the family was surprised when Endon's condition worsened suddenly early Thursday. Doctors had warned in recent weeks that Endon was weak and susceptible to infection.

"He is very calm, he is very religious, he has come to terms with it," Najib said.

Aside from Ms Arroyo, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai also flew in for Endon's funeral, which was held as soon as possible after the death in accordance with Islamic customs.

A teary-eyed Abdullah met with mourners paying their respects at his hilltop residence. When reporters asked whether he was coping well, Abdullah smiled weakly and initially looked lost for words, but then said, "We'll see."

Thousands of people filed past Endon's body, which was wrapped in white linen on a table, while Muslim clerics recited Koran verses. Government functions were canceled as the nation went into mourning.

A very warm person

"She was a very warm person, a friend of ours," Singapore's Lee told reporters. "We will all miss her. It is a very heavy blow to lose a spouse (but) I am sure (Abdullah) will find the strength and fortitude to bear it."

In a nationally televised funeral procession, military officers later carried a flag-draped coffin bearing Endon's remains into a mosque, where an imam led congregational prayers. She was to be buried later in a Muslim cemetery in Putrajaya.

Abdullah, Malaysia's fifth prime minister since the country achieved independence from Britain in 1957, had been married to Endon since Sept. 4, 1965. They have a son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Abdullah, 65, has often called Endon his "No. 1 supporter." When his mother died of natural causes in February 2004, Abdullah telephoned Endon in the United States, where she was undergoing treatment. She later told reporters that he said, "I've lost my mother and I don't want to lose you too."

Endon was respected for her humble, unassuming personality. She was popularly referred to as "Kak Endon," or "Elder Sister Endon." Abdullah and Endon often showed public displays of affection, including hugs and kisses on each other's cheeks.

"I must be supportive and understanding of his duties," Endon told The Star newspaper in a 2003 interview. "I always compliment him. He will always phone when he is away and we always tell each other we love each other."

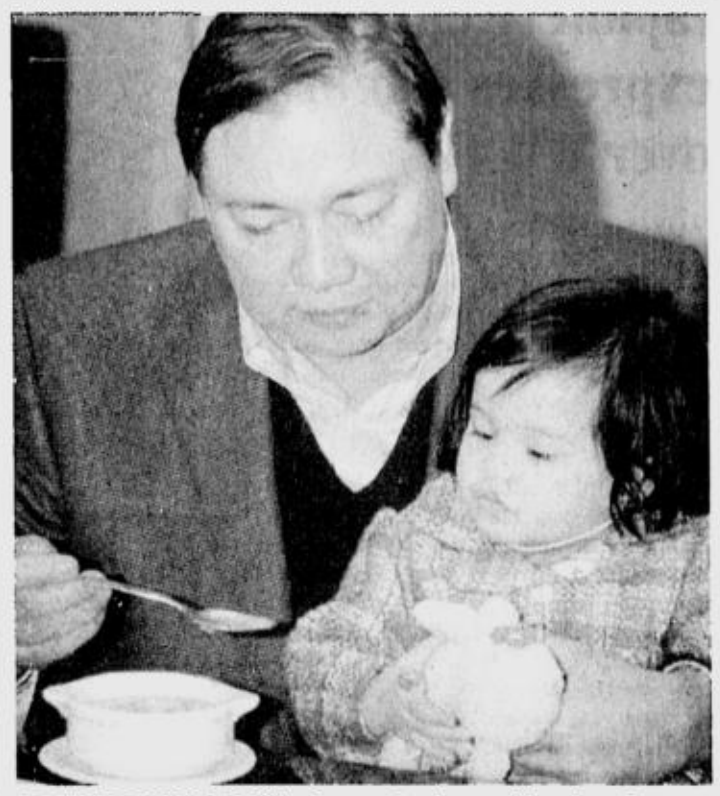
Cancer discovered

Endon, whose mother was Japanese and father among Malaysia's first successful modern businessmen from the ethnic Malay Muslim majority, discovered she had cancer in 2002 after her twin sister, Noraini, was earlier diagnosed with the disease. Noraini died in 2003.

Endon had a breast removed and traveled to Los Angeles regularly for treatment. On Oct. 1, she returned to Malaysia after five rounds of chemotherapy since July.

Endon met Abdullah while both of them were working at the Public Services Department in the 1960s. Since retiring in 1976, she has mainly been involved in charity work and has spearheaded efforts to assist children in North Korea, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

Endon had been deeply involved in cancer awareness programs. She had said she refused to feel sorry for herself, and felt fortunate she could obtain the best medical treatment. *Reports from Christine O. Avendano, Nikko Dizon and AP*



DOTING GRANDPA Mike Arroyo feeds granddaughter Eva Victoria at the arrival lounge of the Naia. ROGER MARGALLO

Mike A returns for 2nd time since self-imposed exile

From page A1

Victoria, arrived at 5:25 a.m. yesterday on Philippine Airlines' PR 105 from San Francisco.

The Arroyos were met by Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority, and retired Gen. Angel Atutubo, Miaa assistant general manager for security.

"I miss my wife. I miss my family," an INQUIRER source quoted the First Gentleman as saying on arrival.

Hours later, the President flew to Malaysia to attend the funeral of Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's wife, Endoom Mahmood, who died of breast cancer early yesterday. *(Story on Page A1.)*

'Up to him'

Mike Arroyo's lawyer and spokesperson, Jesus Santos, could not categorically say whether the First Gentleman had ended his exile.

"I think it would be up to him to decide whether he'll leave again or not," Santos said in a phone interview.

He described his client as a good man who had been falsely accused by others: **"Mabuting tao ito. Naipagkakamali lang nila."**

Santos said he was surprised by the First Gentleman's arrival.

"I spoke to him, and he said he was missing his family terribly," Santos said. *Sabi niya mahirap ang malayo sa asawa, mga anak, at mga apo na nandirito* (He said it was difficult to be far from his wife, children and grandchildren, who are here)."

Santos also quoted the First Gentleman as saying that he wanted to spend All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in the country to pay respects to relatives who had passed on.

'Not an exile'

But in another phone interview with the INQUIRER, Santos said his client had not gone on exile and was just on an extended vacation overseas that was apparently winding up.

In an attempt to explain his client's frequent and extended trips back to the Philippines, Santos said it was not correct to describe the First Gentleman's departure from the country early in July, at the peak of the President's political crisis, as a voluntary exile.

"It's only the media that called it an exile. He just left then because he thought he was a distraction to the President, who was busy in her duties," Santos said, adding:

"He can come back here any time he wants."

In a speech before businessmen on June 29, the President said: "My husband has volunteered to go abroad. He will leave to remove these distractions and volunteered to remove himself from any situation that will cast doubt on my presidency."

The President called her husband's departure a sacrifice by both of them, as well as their children and grandchildren, because "they would miss their doting father and grandfather."

According to Santos, the public should not begrudge the First Gentleman his frequent visits to the Philippines because he is by nature a "family man."

"He really misses having breakfast with the family and spending time with his grandchildren every afternoon," Santos said.

He said the First Gentleman would also visit his ailing elder sister, Carmen Matute Genato.

Second time

This is the second time that the President's husband, a lawyer accused of receiving kickbacks from the illegal numbers game "jueteng," returned for a visit.

He flew in July 31—ostensibly to attend the funeral of his half-sister, Rosario Tuason Matute-Llora, but did not—and went back to the United States on Aug. 10.

The First Couple's elder son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, who is also accused of receiving jueteng payola, flew to the United States last July with his wife Angela and their two daughters, and returned here on Sept. 4 for the birthdays of his wife and brother.

The congressman again left for the United States shortly after his mother flew to New York for the UN Security Council meeting, but was back in Manila again on Sept. 28. He is on leave from the House of Representatives.

The Arroyos, along with the First Gentleman's brother, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, have denied receiving jueteng kickbacks. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Hey, guys, what about Noli?

From page A1

2007 that they should not forget they have to contend with De Castro as well. *(See story on Page A1)*

Asked about Macalintal's reminder about De Castro, Consultative Commission member Gerry Espina said the Vice President could be retained as a member of the new parliament, probably as its Speaker up to 2010. But he said there would be no more vice president when the first election under the parliamentary-federal system takes effect in 2010.

Automatic extensions

Espina had proposed to the Concom the automatic extension of the terms of all officials—from the President to the barangays—up to 2010.

"If PGMA agrees to cut her term, what if Vice President De Castro disagrees or any of the 12 senators whose term expires in 2010 does not likewise agree?" Macalintal said in a message to the INQUIRER.

"These should be explained clearly by the Concom so as not to give false hopes to the people," Macalintal said.

Timetable fast tracked

He made the complaint as Congress leaders and the Consultative Commission on Charter revision formed by Ms Arroyo herself are pushing the immediate shift to the new form of government.

Concom Chair Jose Abueva said a plebiscite should be held as early as middle of next year to seek the people's approval on the new Charter.

The fast-tracked timetable revived speculations that Ms Arroyo would step down in 2007 to pave the way for that shift.

Macalintal however warned the Concom that: "Charter amendment cannot shorten the term of PGMA (and other) officials."

Macalintal, an election lawyer, represents De Castro in the electoral protest filed by losing vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda.

He also represented Ms Arroyo in the dismissed protest filed by her closest rival, the late Fernando Poe Jr.

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Underwear firm faces tax raps for underreporting income

AN UNDERGARMENTS COMPANY is the latest to fall into the net of the internal revenue bureau's stepped-up campaign against tax cheats.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue yesterday filed tax evasion charges against Skyline Garments for tax liabilities amounting to P117.46 million from 2002 to 2004.

Also charged at the Department of Justice were the firm's officers – Prakash Peswani, its president; Victoria Oandasan, treasurer; and Manish Dowlani, general manager.

Skyline is engaged in the manufacture, importation, export and wholesale buying and selling of jogging pants and children's, ladies' and men's underwear.

The BIR said the company had under-reported its income and failed to pay the correct taxes for the past three years.

BIR records showed that Skyline had total sales of P126.429 million in 2002, P119.81 million in 2003, and P101.164 million in 2004.

But through its third party information (TPI) system, the BIR discovered that Skyline had export sales of $4.933 million in 2002; $4.204 million in 2003; and $2.981 million in 2004.

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said BIR investigators saw the huge discrepancy by comparing the company's annual income tax returns and financial statements with its sales data for taxable years 2002, 2003 and 2004.

"This is another case of tax dodging as the culprit clearly made a substantial under-declaration of more than 30 percent which constitutes a prima facie evidence of fraud under the Tax Code," Buñag said.

Buñag said the case against Skyline was the 39th in the growing list of tax evasion cases under the bureau's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program.

He thanked the justice department for its swift action and speedy resolution of these cases. He said he expected the department to file the latest case with the appropriate courts soon. *Cynthia D. Balana*

FRENCH AMBASSADOR Gerard Chesnel poses with President Macapagal-Arroyo after presenting his credentials in Malacañang.

Palace welcomes new French envoy

THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF France to the Philippines presented his credentials to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday at Malacañang Palace.

Ambassador Gérard Chesnel officially started his tour of duty this month October and has been warmly welcomed by the other members of the diplomatic community, the French Embassy said in a press statement.

Chesnel expressed his desire to pursue the development of the bilateral relations of France and the Philippines.

Before his arrival, he was the ambassador and head of mine clearance and assistance to mine victims department of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2002 until recently.

From 1994 to 1997, he was ambassador to Laos. He was first counsellor in Beijing from 1989 to 1994 and deputy director of the Office for Asian and Oceanic Affairs from 2000 to 2002.

He assumed various responsibilities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of which furthered his experience in the field of cultural, scientific and technical cooperation, the embassy said.

He was conferred the rank of Officer in the National Order of Merit as well as the rank of Knight in the Legion of Honor.

Besides English, Ambassador Chesnel speaks Chinese and Indonesian fluently.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Saddam defies court in stormy trial

BAGHDAD—SADDAM HUSSEIN ON WEDNESday defied the authority of a US-sponsored Iraqi court set up to judge crimes during his regime, lecturing the judge and tussling with guards before the proceedings were adjourned until late next month.

Facing the first of what could be several cases over atrocities committed during his quarter century in power, the former Iraqi leader refused to answer the court's questions and launched into a sustained tirade over its legitimacy.

"I said what I said, I am not guilty, I am innocent," Saddam told the court after the presiding judge read out the charges over a 1982 massacre of more than 140 Shiite villagers.

If found guilty, Saddam and his co-defendants could be executed.

In a televised trial watched across the world, Saddam, 68, described himself as the "president of Iraq" from the metal pen he was sitting in along with seven other of his former cohorts, and repeatedly refused to give his name.

"I don't acknowledge either the entity that authorizes you or the aggression because everything based on falsehood is falsehood," said Saddam, dressed in grey suit and open necked suit, and cradling a well-marked Koran in his lap.

"Who are you and what are you?" he demanded of presiding judge Rizkar Mohammed Amin.

After several hours that were mainly devoted to procedural matters, Amin adjourned the trial until Nov. 28. Saddam's lawyer Khalil al-Dulaimi—who has frequently complained of not having time to prepare a defense—had requested a three-month delay.

The session took place in the heart of Baghdad's highly fortified Green Zone for the hearing, the first time an Arab leader has gone on trial for crimes committed against his own people.

The defendants include Barzan Ibrahim Hassan al-Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother and a former director of the feared Mukhabarat intelligence service, and former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan, one of the regime's "enforcers."

"Trial of the Century" trumpeted the headline in Al-Bayan, the mouthpiece of the Shiite Dawa party of Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari. "Iraqis will finally see their former dictator at the mercy of Iraqi justice." *AFP*

FURIOUS Saddam in court. AFP

NAUUBOS ANG PERA NATIN PAMBAYAD NG UTANG

Marami sa mga problema ng ekonomiya, nakatali sa utang ng bayan. Sa ngayon, 86 percent ng kinikita ng pamahalaan, ginagamit pambayad ng utang natin. Kaunti lang natitira para sa pangunahing serbisyo, kaya kailangan natin ng matinding reporma sa pananalapi. Kabilang dito ang reformed VAT law.

KAILANGAN I-BALANSE ANG BADYET

Ang reformed VAT ay paraan para maitaas ang kita ng pamahalaan upang matustusan ang mga gastusin nito at nang may matirang pera para sa pagawaing bayan at mga proyektong panlaban sa kahirapan.

MAY MGA BILIHIN NA DI NA EXEMPTED SA VAT

Dati pa may VAT ang maraming bilihin, tulad ng delata, noodles, mantika, damit at iba pa. Sa kasalukuyan, kasama na sa presyo ng mga ito ang VAT.

Pero may ilang produkto at serbisyo na dati ay exempted sa VAT ngunit papatawan na ng VAT. Sa ilalim nitong reformed VAT law, may VAT na ang gasolina at iba pang produktong petrolyo, kuryente, mga serbisyong legal at medikal, pati na ang pamasahe sa mga barko at eroplano.

HINDI LAHAT NG PRESYO TATAAS

Tataas ng bahagya ang presyo ng mga produktong inalisan ng VAT exemption tulad ng gasolina, diesel, LPG at kuryente. Pero kahit na tumaas ang presyo ng mga ito, hindi dapat tumaas ang presyo ng mga bilihing dati pa may VAT.

Kung may mga nagsasamantala sa VAT para itaas ang presyo ng kanilang paninda bago maging epektibo ang batas, dapat isumbong sa Department of Trade and Industry.

PAANO ANG MAHIHIRAP?

Lahat ay magsasakripisyo, pero ginawa ang lahat para alalayan ang mas kapos-palad. Wala pa ring VAT sa mga pangunahing produkto tulad ng bigas at sariwang pagkain tulad ng isda, gulay at karne. Wala ring VAT ang matrikula, libro at diyaryo. Libre rin sa VAT ang upa sa bahay na mas mababa sa P10,000 kada buwan pati na ang pagbili ng low-cost o socialized housing. Wala ring VAT ang paninda ng mga negosyanteng mas mababa sa P1.5 million sa isang taon ang benta.

PAANO MASISIGURO NA GAGAMITIN ANG KITA SA VAT SA TAMANG PARAAN?

Bahagi ng koleksyon mula sa VAT ay ilalaan para sa
1) bagong paaralan
2) kalye at patubig para sa magsasaka
3) health insurance para sa kapos-palad
4) programang pangkalikasan

Binabantayan rin ang gastusin ng pamahalaan upang walang masasayang sa mga hindi mahahalagang gastusin.

Kasabay rin ng reformed VAT, pinaigting ang 'lifestyle check' at mga programang panlaban sa kurakot sa pamahalaan. Gayundin, patuloy na tutugisin ang mga hindi nagbabayad ng tamang buwis pati na ang mga smugglers upang pangalagaan ang kaban ng bayan.

Kung magtutulungan tayong lahat, makaka-ahon rin tayo.

Ang VAT Reform Law ay magkakabisa simula sa November 1, 2005

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China, US agree to improve military ties

BEIJING—CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES agreed to improve military ties Wednesday after US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned that a rapid and secretive military buildup was sending "mixed signals" about China's intentions, US officials said.

President Hu Jintao told Rumsfeld that although the military relationship had improved over the years there was still room to expand, senior US defense officials told reporters.

"All this will better help military forces of our two countries to better enhance mutual understanding and friendship," Hu said said in the meeting in the Great Hall of the People.

Rumsfeld earlier made an unprecedented visit to the headquarters of the Strategic Rocket Forces whose commander, Gen. Jing Zhiyuan, assured him of China's policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons, the officials said.

The officials interpreted the comments as a disavowal of a statement in June by Gen. Zhu Chenghu who said that if US forces targeted China in a crisis over Taiwan, "I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons."

Jing told Rumsfeld suggestions that China was targeting other nations were "completely groundless," a senior US official who attended the meeting said.

"As commander of the strategic forces reporting to the Central Military Command I'm in a position to clarify this," the official quoted Jing as saying.

The US officials regarded the visit to the Strategic Rocket Forces headquarters as something of a coup, saying the Chinese for years had denied requests to visit.

Rumsfeld was told he was the first foreigner to set foot in the building, they said. He was briefed on the organizational structure of the command by Jing's senior staff.

"I think it's a start," another senior US defense official said. "There were some interesting things we may want to pursue."

"We certainly took it as a willingness to engage, albeit gingerly," he said.

Earlier, Rumsfeld and Defense Minister Cao Guangchuan agreed "in principal" on the need for more educational exchanges and other types of military-to-military activities. *AFP*

High court strips Chile's Pinochet of immunity

SANTIAGO—CHILE'S SUPREME COURT ON Wednesday stripped ex-dictator Augusto Pinochet of his immunity so he can be tried for tax fraud and other crimes related to the secret accounts he had in the United States and other countries, the court said.

The high court ruling upheld an appeals court decision from four months ago calling for Pinochet, 89, to face trial, with his wife, Lucia Hiriart, and youngest son, Marco Antonio Pinochet, listed as accomplices.

The ruling opens the way for Pinochet to face trial for allegedly bilking the government of as much as $27 million, some of which was revealed in a US Senate investigation of money laundering.

Tuesday, Pinochet underwent more than two hours of medical and psychological tests to determine whether he can stand trial separately for the deaths of 119 opponents during his regime.

Under Supreme Court orders, Pinochet was to undergo blood, neurological and psychological tests to determine whether he is fit to be tried for political killings during his regime.

As journalists tried to snap a picture of him, the former dictator arrived at Catholic University's hospital in a car with tinted glass; later, he was whisked back to his home in the district of La Dehesa. He is expected to undergo further psychological tests on Tuesday.

On Sept. 14, the high court ruled that Pinochet's immunity as a former president could be withdrawn in the "Operation Colombo" case, which involves the disappearances and presumed deaths of more than 100 members of the militant Revolutionary Leftist Movement in July 1975. *AFP*

Deadly bird flu reaches region south of Moscow

BRUSSELS—RUSSIA told the EU on Wednesday it had found the deadly strain of avian flu in birds in a region south of Moscow, marking the steady westward march of a virus scientists fear could trigger a pandemic.

The European Commission said Russia had identified the H5N1 bird flu strain about 200 km south of Moscow in the Tula region, next to a lake with numerous wild ducks.

The deadly H5N1 strain—which has killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003 and forced the slaughter of thousands of birds—has also been discovered in Turkey and Romania.

As European countries geared up their response, Britain said it planned to buy enough vaccine to protect the entire population in case the virus mutates into a strain capable of killing millions of people.

And Germany said it would confine all live poultry to their pens to prevent them from coming into contact with migrating birds, believed by some to be carrying the virus from Asia.

First time

Russia had already said it had bird flu in Siberia and eastern Russia. But Wednesday's announcement marked the first time the virus had spread west of the Ural mountains, which separate Asian from European Russia.

The Russian Agriculture Ministry said 220 domestic fowl died of the disease last week in the village of Yandovka. Authorities imposed a quarantine and ordered the culling of 3,000 poultry.

Bird flu has also been discovered on a Greek Aegean island, but tests have yet to establish whether it is the H5N1 strain.

Romania, where the presence of H5N1 in a Danube delta village was identified last week, said further tests on dead birds from another village had proved positive.

The European Commission says risks of a human influenza pandemic are growing and has advised member states to stockpile antiviral drugs. Sixteen EU states have placed orders for them.

Global threat

EU foreign ministers declared bird flu a "global threat" on Tuesday. But on Wednesday, the Stockholm-based European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) sought to calm fears.

"For the time being there is no reason to panic in Europe," Zsuzsanna Jakab, head of the center, told a news conference.

"The risk for citizens to have this virus is minimal."

Scientists fear H5N1 could mutate into a variety that could spread easily between humans if it passes from birds to people on a large scale, but the ECDC saw this as unlikely.

"This virus is not yet adapted to humans. It is not capable of human-to-human transmission and until that happens this will not be a pandemic strain," Jakab said.

US experts also believe there is little chance of the deadly avian flu reaching the United States, which already protects its flocks by not importing chicken meat or live chickens from countries that have the disease.

"The migratory patterns are basically north-south. They don't go east-west much," said Larry McDougald, professor of poultry science at the University of Georgia.

"It is a natural geographic barrier. The birds that are flying across Vietnam are not the same birds that are flying across us," he said.

And, underlining the view of many scientists that bird flu is a far more serious problem in Asia, China said 2,600 birds at a poultry farm in Inner Mongolia had died from H5N1.

Xinhua news agency said the outbreak, for which it gave no date, had since been brought under control. The Health Ministry said it had not heard of any human infections.

The World Health Organization has said the strain is endemic in poultry in China and across much of Asia.

But with European governments treading a fine line between avoiding creating panic and showing they are taking action, Germany said it would confine all poultry to their pens immediately after the virus was confirmed in European Russia.

"With the appearance of this virus in Russia south of Moscow, we had to reevaluate the risk," Environment and Agriculture Minister Juergen Trittin told Reuters.

And Britain's Chief Medical Officer Liam Donaldson said vaccine manufacturers were being invited to tender contracts to supply 120 million doses once the pandemic strain is known. *Reuters*

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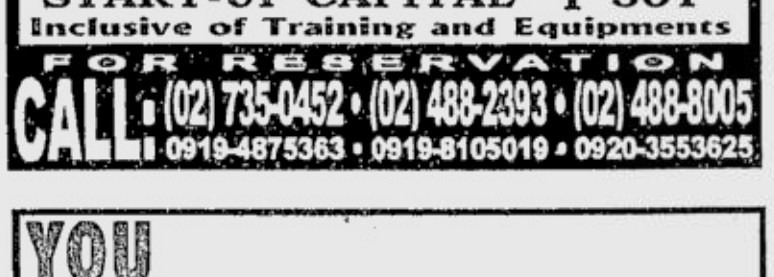

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Arrest warrant issued for DeLay

HOUSTON—AN ARREST WARRANT WAS ISsued on Wednesday and bail set at $10,000 for former US House Majority Leader Tom DeLay ahead of his scheduled court appearance this week in Austin, Texas, for money laundering and conspiracy charges, a Texas court clerk said.

The so-called "capias" was a "purely procedural event" but would require DeLay to turn himself into authorities to be fingerprinted and photographed, Travis County Grand Jury Clerk Linda Estrada said.

Court officials said DeLay was expected to go to Fort Bend County jail in his district near Houston for booking, but that had not been confirmed.

"To any sheriff or peace officer of the state of Texas, greetings, you are hereby commanded to arrest Thomas Dale DeLay and keep him safely so that you have him before the 331st Judicial District Court of Travis County," the warrant said.

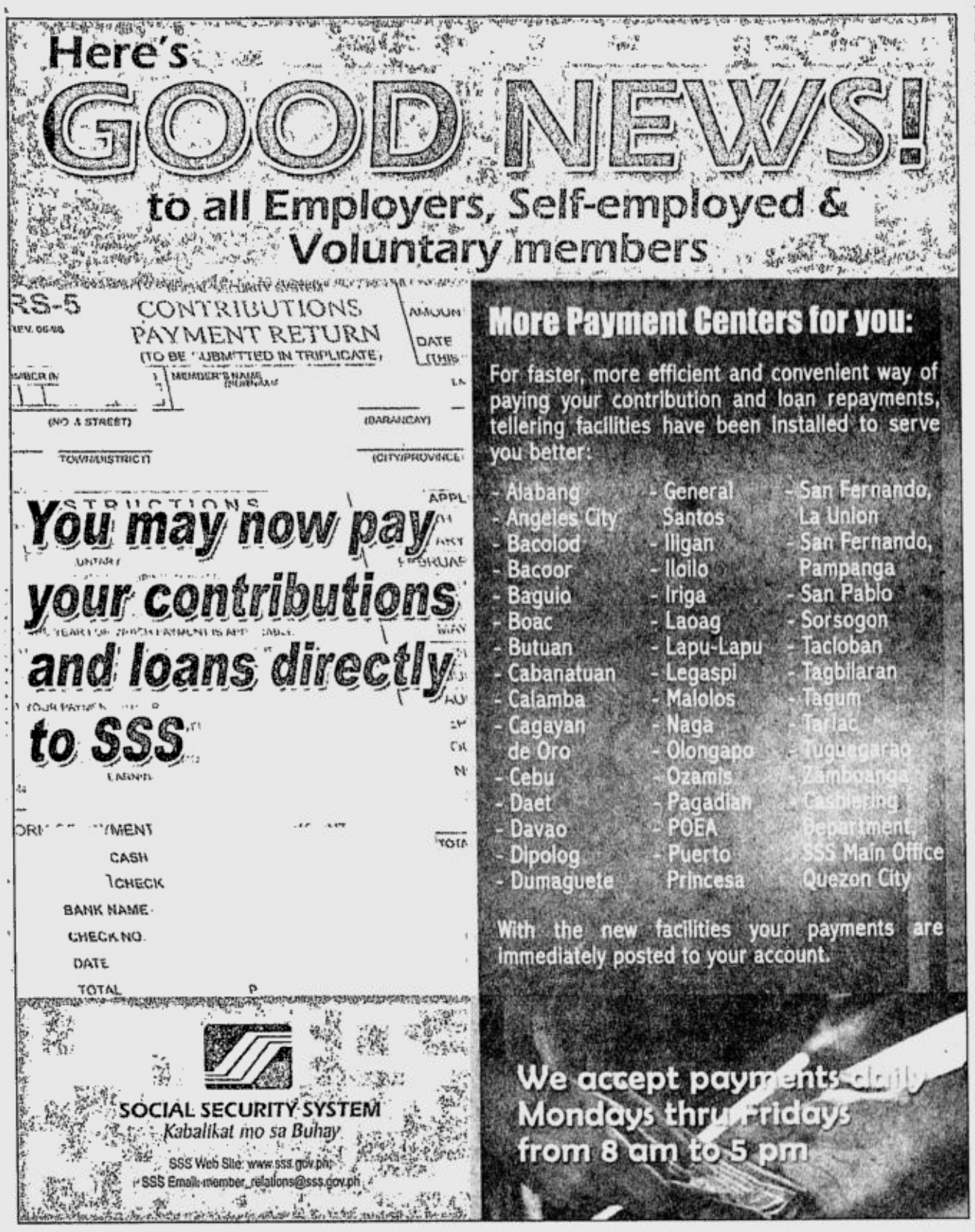
DeLay has been charged with conspiracy and money laundering in a campaign finance scheme tied to his political action committee, Texans for a Republican Majority.

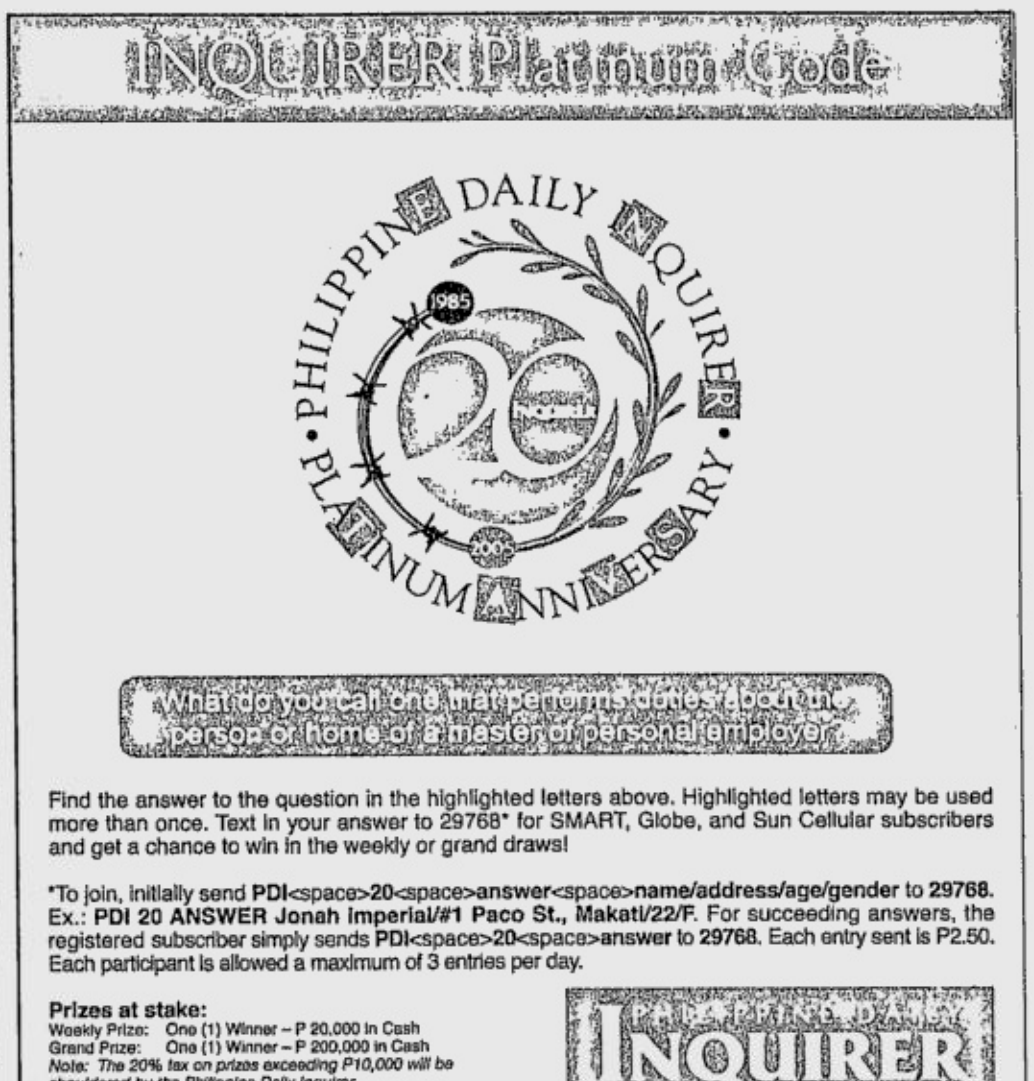
He has denied any wrongdoing, but is accused of laundering $190,000 in corporate campaign contributions through the Republican National Committee for distribution to Republican candidates for the Texas Legislature in 2002.

Texas law forbids the use of corporate money in political campaigns.

He is scheduled to make his first court appearance on Friday before state District Judge Bob Perkins.

Neither a DeLay spokesperson nor his lawyer was immediately available for comment. *Reuters*





A Call to the Nation's Leaders by the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai

For quite a time, we have refrained from issuing statements concerning the current political situation in keeping with our policy of respecting the separation of Church and State. However, the increasing calls of our members and non-members as well, majority of whom belong to the lower bracket of the socio-economic strata, compelled us to break our silence and convey an appeal to all the leaders of both the Administration and the Opposition to bring to an end the political bickerings that have been going on for months and have been hurting our nation so much, particularly its economy.

We call on the leaders on both sides of the political fence to consider the undeniable reality that many of our countrymen now are unable to provide themselves with the most basic of necessities. In fact, they can hardly afford to eat three square meals a day. Whereas, the leaders who engage themselves in these political squabbles have the means to survive even if the economic condition worsens. It is high time that they set aside their personal interests and attend to their duty of alleviating the sufferings of the Filipino people, for which they were put into office.

We still believe that there is still hope in resolving the issues being raised by both sides through peaceful and constitutional means, if only they will offer to sacrifice a portion of what they believe are theirs to hold on to, for the sake of our suffering people. We also believe that the efforts to resolve these should not consume the greater part of their time and energy such that the pressing needs of our people are left virtually neglected.

We are confident that you, our nation's leaders, still have the welfare of the people at heart. May you not disappoint the expectations of your countrymen who look up to you for leadership especially in these economically trying times.

Brother Mike Velarde
SERVANT LEADER
El Shaddai—DWXIPPFI

Brother Eraño G. Manalo
EXECUTIVE MINISTER
Iglesia ni Cristo

Strongest hurricane on record barrels toward Mexico and US

CANCUN, MEXIco—A monstrous Hurricane Wilma barreled toward Mexico and the storm-weary US coast Thursday, forcing tens of thousands to flee coastlines after it mushroomed into the most powerful storm ever recorded in the Atlantic.

The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said the "extremely dangerous" behemoth had weakened slightly to a category four hurricane, packing winds of 250 km per hour, as it continued to swirl toward Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, which is popular among American and European tourists.

However, the NHC said Wilma "could regain category five intensity," pushing wind speeds closer to 280 kph as they were clocked on Wednesday. Five is the top category on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale.

"The storm is very powerful and very threatening," said Mexican President Vicente Fox, adding that authorities are prepared for its impact.

Cuba started to evacuate 235,000 people, while tens of thousands of tourists were ordered out of Cancun, Mexico, and the Florida Keys island chain.

Mexican authorities ordered the evacuation of more than 33,000 tourists vacationing in two islands off Cancun, Isla Mujeres and Holbox, and from the Punta Allen laguna south of here. Another 70,000 in Cancun itself were advised to leave the area.

Quitana Roo state, on the eastern edge of the Yucatan Peninsula which includes the resorts of Cancun and Cozumel, was put under a red alert by Gov. Felix Gonzaelez to prepare for Wilma's fury.

The storm also forced the cancellation of the MTV Video Music Awards Latin America ceremony, planned for Wednesday night in Cancun.

The peninsula could be hit by hurricane conditions in the next 24 hours, according to the National Hurricane Center, which warned that "preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion."

"All those here should take necessary precautions: first, tourists should return to their cities of origin, second, homes and boats should be secured," said Roberto Vargas, a civil protection official in Cancun.

The US hurricane center warned that Yucatan could be hit by storm surge flooding of two to three meters above normal tide, along with "large and dangerous battering waves," if Wilma's eye makes landfall on the peninsula.

Forecasters then expect Wilma to make a sharp turn to the northeast toward Florida, which was bracing for the hurricane to arrive late Saturday, and a state of emergency was declared in the Keys.

President George W. Bush has been briefed on the storm, a spokesperson said, and he called on Americans to heed warnings about Wilma.

At 0600 GMT Thursday, Wilma was about 345 km southeast of Cozumel. Wind speed had dropped from 260 kph per hour to 250 km per hour.

"Fluctuations in intensity are common in hurricanes of this intensity (and) are likely in the next 24 hours," said the NHC. "Wilma could regain category five intensity on Thursday."

On Wednesday, the hurricane's barometric pressure had dropped to 882 millibars, "the lowest pressure on record for a hurricane in the Atlantic basin," the NHC said. The lower the pressure, the stronger the storm is. The pressure measured 892 millibars at 0001 GMT. *AFP*

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Breast cancer drug Herceptin results 'simply stunning'

WASHINGTON—IN TEST RESULTS RELEASED Wednesday that researchers called "simply stunning," the drug Herceptin was shown to dramatically reduce the recurrence of a common type of breast cancer in its early stage after chemotherapy.

Three international clinical trials on more than 6,500 patients showed that the drug, which has been mostly used to prolong survival of patients with advanced HER2 breast cancer, is profoundly effective in treating those in the early stages as well.

A summary of the trials in the New England Journal of Medicine characterized the results as so positive that Herceptin could possibly lead to "a cure" for the disease.

"This is probably the biggest evidence of a treatment effect I've ever seen in oncology," said Richard Gelber of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, which took part in the tests.

"It is quite remarkable," Gelber said.

"Clearly, the results ... are not evolutionary but revolutionary," doctor Gabriel Hortobagyi said in the journal.

The particularly aggressive protein HER2 is involved in up to 30 percent of the more than one million new breast cancer cases diagnosed worldwide each year. Approximately 400,000 people die annually from the disease.

Herceptin, a monoclonal antibody drug produced in the United States by the firm Genentech and known by the generic name trastuzumab, has been used therapeutically on women in the advanced stages of HER2 breast cancer following chemotherapy since 1998.

Because HER2 is frequently resistant to chemotherapy, Herceptin is administered to block the activity of the protein to prevent the cancer's recurrence.

In the largest of the trials, in 2001 the Breast International Group together with European Herceptin manufacturer Roche began testing its effect on 5,000 women in 39 countries who were diagnosed with HER2 cancer in the early stage.

Within one year, Herceptin users showed clearly positive results. The rate of recurrence was slashed by 46 percent. *AFP*

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OPINION

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Brinkmanship

WITH THE SUPREME COURT GIVING THE GREEN light to the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law (EVAT), the Arroyo administration is scrambling to give it the best possible spin. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves sees a balanced budget by 2008, or two years earlier than President Macapagal-Arroyo's own prediction. National Treasurer Omar Cruz says the cost of borrowings should fall as government finances improve because of increased revenues. And Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the appropriations committee of the House of Representative, says the revenue measure would help finance the P1-trillion national government budget for 2006, which includes P15 billion for the salary increases to be given government workers.

EDITORIAL

Not too many people, however, share the view that the EVAT is just what the doctor prescribed for an ailing economy—least of all the Filipino consumers who are already grumbling about the constantly rising prices of food and other essential items, caused mainly by higher prices of oil products. While they may have quite reasonably resigned themselves to living with the adverse effects of higher prices of crude oil on their already tight budgets, it is doubtful whether they would accept with the same equanimity any additional burden imposed by the government.

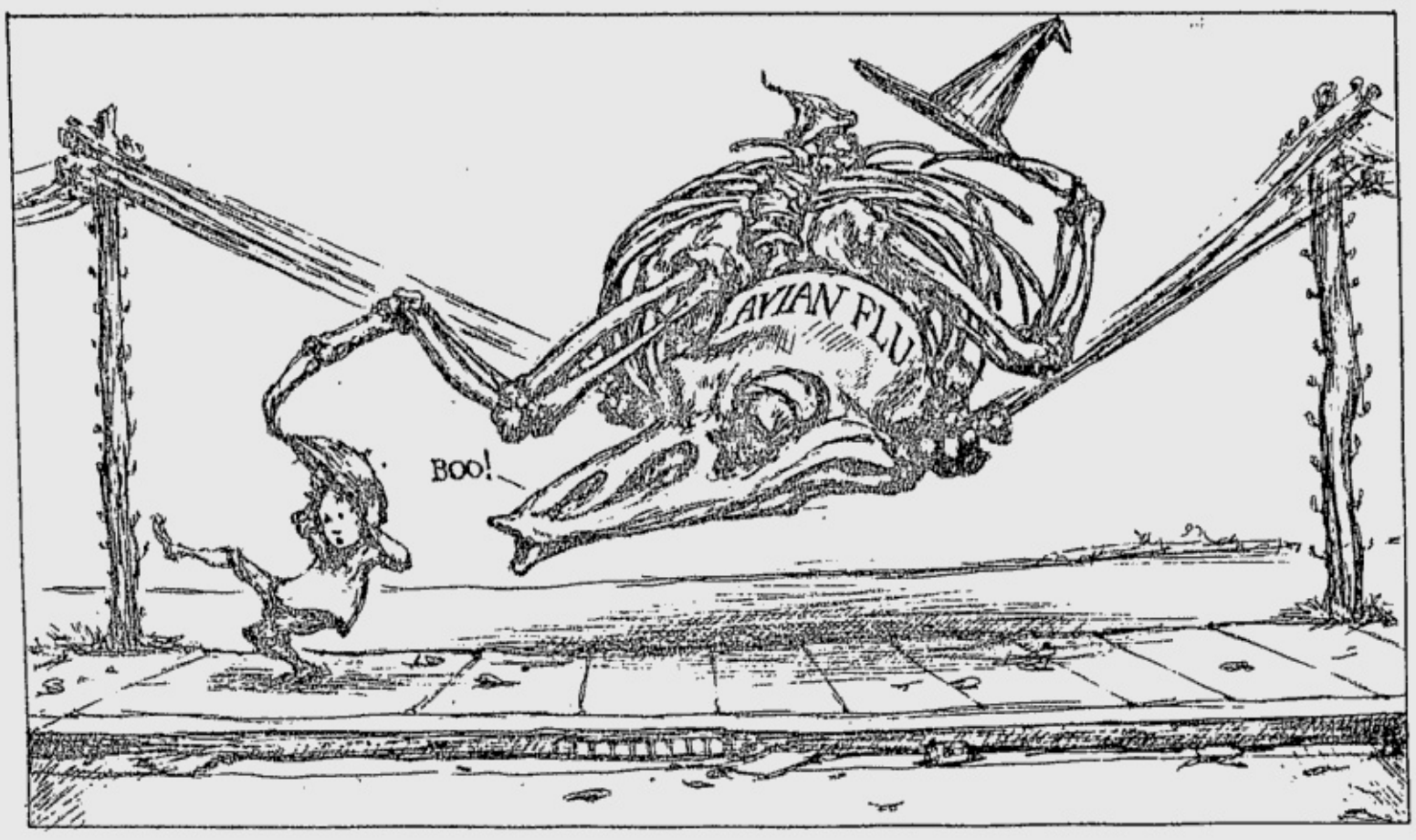
The EVAT is going to hit them hard and in many different ways. Once the law comes into effect (on Nov. 1, according to the Department of Finance), the price of diesel will rise by 93 centavos a liter while unleaded gasoline will cost P3.40 more per liter. And that is based on the unlikely assumption that oil companies will hold off collection of their so-called "under-recovery" averaging P2.50 per liter. LPG will go up to P521 per cylinder of 11 kilos or almost P100 more than its present price. The cost of electricity in the areas serviced by Meralco will also increase by 58 centavos per kilowatt-hour. Domestic airline and shipping agencies will also raise their fares and freight charges as they begin to pay a 10-percent value-added tax. So will doctors, hospitals, lawyers and other professionals.

Those are only for starters. When the new year begins, the value-added tax on all goods and services will go up to 12 percent. Throw in the inevitable fare increases and the equally predictable profiteering and it may take nothing less than a miracle to hold inflation down to less than 8 percent this year and 8.5 percent in 2006, as economic officials have promised.

Administration officials can be expected to keep pointing out—quite correctly—that the government needs additional revenues to stave off an economic collapse due to the widening budget deficit and mounting debts. But no matter how much administration officials play up any economic gains, the people will only count their own losses. They would hardly notice if the budget deficit shrinks, but they would care a lot if their earnings buy less and their savings vanish.

With prices continually rising, the administration faces the difficult task of convincing people to sacrifice some more. Even those who worked hardest in Congress for the enactment of the EVAT are now urging the government to find ways of cushioning its effects on the poor and the not-so-poor. Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, who shepherded the EVAT bill through Congress, has been calling for a suspension of the EVAT on power and oil products, saying that collecting the tax at a time when oil prices are sky-high would do the economy more harm than good. Ten senators have also signed up as sponsors of a bill proposing amending the EVAT law to exclude electricity from its coverage. But the administration appears set on sticking with the present law, at least for now.

Given the political tension and instability that continue to hound it to this day, is the administration perhaps unwittingly following a suicidal course? That's hardly likely. Whatever its many shortcomings, political naiveté isn't one of them. After demonstrating its readiness to do just about anything to hang on to power, the administration can be expected to pull back the moment it sees that the EVAT has become unpopular. But in the meantime, it cannot afford to exhibit any sign that its resolve in pushing for fiscal reforms is flagging. But how far can it push before the people's patience breaks?



Was Erap removed constitutionally?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AFTER THE KAPIHAN SA MANILA FORUM last Monday in which Sen. Alfredo Lim and former ambassador and solicitor general Raul Goco lambasted the police for hosing down the religious procession at San Sebastian, the conversation turned to (guess who?) former President Estrada.

"*Kay Erap ako talagang naaawa* (I'm really sorry for Erap)," said Ambassador Goco.

Asked why, he replied, "I think he was removed illegally." Then he proceeded to explain why.

The Constitution provides four reasons for replacing the President: death, permanent disability, resignation and impeachment. Erap is still very much alive, and is able to and in fact is raring to govern. He did not resign, and the impeachment trial against him was never finished. The prosecutors walked out of the Senate trial and Chief Justice Hilario Davide, instead of disciplining them and forcing the continuation of the trial as the rule of law demanded, opted to join the ralliers at Edsa. In short, it was not impeachment that removed Erap from the presidency.

Davide himself administered the oath of office to then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 20, 2001, without stating the legal basis for her takeover. It was only two months later that the Supreme Court came out with the basis: Erap had resigned "constructively" (meaning, he is deemed to have resigned although there is no letter of resignation). The decision was based on a diary, not Erap's, but Edgardo Angara's. The latter was then his executive secretary. The Angara diary, by the way, was never presented as evidence in court.

Both the removal of Erap and the assumption by GMA to the presidency were, therefore, clearly illegal. These two facts remain the controversial and divisive legal and constitutional issues up to now. Coupled with the charges of cheating in the 2004 elections, the issue hounds the legitimacy of GMA's presidency. Erap's lawyer, Alan Paguia, had hammered on this question and dared the high court to answer it. But the magistrates, instead of answering and clarifying the issue, suspended Paguia from the practice of law indefinitely.

Now, since Erap's removal was illegal (Goco continued), he is still legally the President—no different from the European kings during the Middle Ages who were deposed by pretenders, only to return to the throne later (example: Richard the Lionhearted of England). It doesn't matter that Erap's six-year term expired when a new president was elected in 2004. That doesn't have any legal effect on his term, of which more than half still remains. Since Erap was not removed in the manner prescribed by the Constitution, the constitutional clock pertaining to his term has stopped temporarily. For the law provides that unless the removal of a sitting president is in accordance with the law, whatever follows will clearly be illegal in the eyes of the law. Constitutionally, therefore, Erap still has about three years to serve as President.

"Rule of Law" has been the favorite byword of the administration in the debates surrounding the smothered impeachment complaint against GMA. But if we are really serious in taking to heart the meaning and essence of the rule of law, then we have to go back to January 2001 and begin correcting the illegalities spawned by Edsa II.

The United States State Department (or at least the US Embassy in Manila) shares this view. The US Embassy conceded in two secret reports to the State Department last July 30 and Aug. 26 that Erap is the "most acceptable" national leader to replace GMA.

Never mind that Erap is under house arrest and is being tried for corruption and plunder, accusations that have been largely seen as politically motivated to justify GMA's usurpation of his powers.

What about Vice President Noli de Castro? Alas, the US Embassy does not have a good impression of him. In fact, De Castro seems to be GMA's secret weapon in the sense that doubts about his competence seem to be protecting or saving her from immediate ouster. Many people view him as the cure being worse than the disease. And so they hesitate to oust GMA for fear that they would get De Castro as her replacement. Besides, now that GMA has apparently been caught cheating in the polls, people conclude that De Castro also benefited from the cheating operations conducted by Malacañang.

That is why several opposition groups do not want De Castro as GMA's successor (the two are birds of the same feather, they say). They have proposed different successors: a transition government, a revolutionary government, a junta, a commission, etc. that would govern until the next election to elect a president. These are proposals that scare the people. Juntas and revolutionary governments have a tendency to abuse their powers and stay on and on—another cure that is worse than the disease.

And so GMA stays on despite the fact that 80 percent of the population doesn't want her anymore. The stalemate on the question of who should succeed her keeps her there.

As that recent pro-Erap rally at Plaza Miranda declared, Erap is still the President. GMA is a usurper. Put Erap back in Malacañang as justice and the Constitution require.

Do you agree?

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Topic for next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila is still the hosing down last Friday the 14th of peaceful ralliers at San Sebastian. Invited guests are representatives of the ralliers, among them former Vice President Teofisto Guingona; the police, the Commission on Human Rights, Sen. Jamby Madrigal and her bodyguard.

And for a neutral point of view, Sen. Mar Roxas.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

GMA: How can they say my popularity rating is plunging? Look at all those people waving at me.

MIKEY: But Ma, don't you notice, they're all waving at us with their middle fingers.

Filipinos in Rome

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

I WENT TO A *TABACCI* IN ROME TO BUY BUS tickets, saw some newspapers for sale, and to my delight, discovered that one of those papers was the Philippine Daily Inquirer. There were also some Filipino magazines and, interestingly enough, one solely dedicated to cars for sale in Manila. My son wondered: what use would that be to a Filipino in Rome? I could only surmise: if he or she is the one who's paying for it here, so he or she might as well choose it for the folks back home.

I always take the Metro or the bus to move around, and never fail to meet a fellow Filipino each time. Whenever I feel lost and start desperately scanning the horizon for an information booth, I look no further the moment I find a Filipino face—and more typically, a Filipina face—and some would even walk out of their path to direct me. Without fail, in a crowded bus, I have found them enthusiastically turning around to trace the source of the Tagalog conversation.

The Filipinos here, of course, all speak Italian, and when I ask if they went to school to learn the language of their host nation, almost always they say, no, we learned on our own, just by listening. That, if you remember, is how languages are naturally learned, and it should chastise our colleges that teach foreign languages for the taking of exams, and not for actual living. Worse, learning a foreign tongue is seen back home as an elite pastime for those whose greatest problem is the ennui of "having, not being."

My conversations with Filipinos here have been brief, my questions all too basic. How long have you been here? Is your family with you? How often do you get to fly back home? Those whom I have met all seemed happy and content, feeling themselves fortunate to have found work in the Eternal City, and proud to support entire families and clans by their honest toil.

And indeed. To start with, what for them are mere stops on a train or bus ride are actually the most fascinating monuments of Western civilization: the Colosseo, the St. Peter's Basilica, the Pantheon, sights that showcase the best that past civilizations have achieved and which draw travelers and worshippers from all over the globe. (Hey, guys, I saw the Pope—he walked just three feet in front of me, I could've shaken his hand. I thought he was much bigger—though maybe that is just the Pinoy Catholic in me to imagine the Pope to be larger than life.)

I admire them for their sacrifice. While my wife did speak to some women whose husbands or families had already joined them in Italy, more typically, the Filipinos here support families in the homeland, feeling the warmth of a child's hug only one month each year at the most. Those who say that we, Filipinos, lack a sense of community and are too caught up in self-interest, look no further than the overseas Filipino workers. I admire them for their sense of adventure. Sure it takes a feeling of desperation and hopelessness about life in the Philippines to pack up for abroad. But while some slink back into resignation, others fight it and seek greener pastures in strange lands. (Apparently, it's the men who find it more difficult to find jobs, and who tend to backslide into familiar homegrown vices.) From our quick chats, they all seemed to have found kindness and understanding from among the Italians, and have shaped their dreams for the future around their new, adoptive country.

The Filipino, in the Philippines or abroad, typically thinks simply in terms of a quiet life, where he earns his daily wage through good honest work. Somehow our political life has failed to address that yearning, that longing. We speak of big things—freedom, democracy, solidarity—but have failed to explain why these should matter to the common folk who think plainly in terms of paying the next month's rent.

Perhaps, that is why the rallies on Mendiola—and the needlessly violent dispersals—have failed to ignite the indignation that many had hoped for. The protesters speak of abstracts like freedom and democracy, while the government purports to offer practical goodies like street sweepers' jobs and various subsidies.

The legal philosopher Unger has noted this gap. In our "official political dogma," we believe in rights, laws and the "cult of consent." But in real life, we treat "each other as patrons and clients and trading in favors and dependencies [showing] almost complete disbelief in all institutions not founded on blood, property, or power, [acting] as if a moment of personal presence were worth a thousand promises and as if any exercise of power could be tolerated so long as the veil of sentiment covered it."

Around the corner, I found a sort of *sari-sari* store owed by Filipinos and, I suppose, catering to fellow Filipinos. Who after all would buy Nescafé and Nido in the land of cappuccino? Also, I had thought that with the Internet, the Filipino diaspora would have no need for the actual newspaper anymore. But drinking coffee is not just about the taste, or is reading a newspaper merely about getting information.

It is about affirming one's sense of community, and recreating a sense of home in a foreign land. By opening a crisp copy of the INQUIRER, the transplanted Pinoy beams himself into the simultaneous universe that exists in the homeland. In their own, poignant way, they have never truly left.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Jesuit guidelines on political crisis

COMMENTARY

Roberto C. Yap, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

FR. DANIEL PATRICK L. HUANG, S.J., THE provincial superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines, recently endorsed the "Guidelines in a Time of Confusion and Crisis," which was prepared by the Province Commission on the Social Apostolate. Produced after much discussion and consultation, the document is an attempt to provide specific guidelines for a Christian moral reflection on the ongoing political crisis and confusion that have engulfed our nation.

Father Provincial asks that these guidelines be read, reflected and prayed upon, and made the subject of serious discernment, toward action by individuals, communities and institutions. Father Huang recognizes that not all will agree with what is presented in the guidelines: some will judge that they go "too far"; others will doubtless think they do not go "far enough." For his part, Father Provincial personally believes that these guidelines offer sound directions to help us "read" our present situation and to orient us in our common search for authentic solutions to the grave problems of our country today. Nonetheless, these guidelines are not presented as positions that all are compelled to accept and adhere to. If some, in conscience, differ with the positions taken in the guidelines, Father Huang is asking them to present their dissent with civility and intelligence, as input for the continuing task of communal discernment toward that which will serve the true good of our country.

Father Provincial exhorts the Jesuits and their lay partners to be united in prayer and deep concern for our country and our people. He prays that the Lord show us the way toward the truth, freedom and justice that our people yearn for; and that God bless us with courage and hope.

We are presenting the first seven of nine guidelines here to share them with those who may be seeking direction and guidance in these troubled times. The next two will be presented in a subsequent column.

1. The struggle to bring out the truth must go on. The freedom to advocate this struggle must be upheld. The President has not sufficiently rendered an account to the people (of the) serious charges (that) have been raised against her, and the efforts to hide the facts only confirm the suspicions of many. To dismiss the concern for truth in the name of stability is to condone the culture of impunity, under which those in power have long been able to commit crimes unpunished, and our people have become cynical—accepting corruption and deceit as normal in public life.

2. Those who claim that the "rule of law" (triumphed) in the recent impeachment proceedings confuse proceduralism with law. While it is true that the procedures of law were (followed), the spirit of the law was subverted. Evidence was not allowed to emerge.

3. Peaceful and legal means that protect and strengthen our democratic institutions must be used in the continued search for the truth. In this same spirit, the legislature, especially the Senate, must not be remiss in its oversight function, to ensure (that) the system of checks and balances, set in place by the Constitution (serves its purpose). Likewise, care should be taken that concrete actions do not support or strengthen groups with covert anti-democratic, adventurist or power-grab agenda.

4. We respect the decision of those who in conscience have reached a judgment that the President should not remain in office. Part of this process is the moral obligation to seriously consider alternatives that will be truly good for the country, and not abet the struggle for power among the elite and corrupt politicians.

5. The search for truth must include a search into the deeper truth of Philippine political life, the factors which make the present crisis just one of a series of political crises that hinder the country's development. It is necessary to listen to, reflect seriously on, and address the concerns of a large majority of people who seem apathetic or whose dissatisfaction does not seem to translate into political action. Some, for example, have lost trust in all politicians of whatever camp. Others, especially those in the provinces, feel excluded by and resentful of what they perceive to be (a status quo that allows Manila to make decisions) for the country again. Efforts must be made to address this disillusionment and sense of exclusion, so that our people will be motivated to participate more vigorously in our country's political life.

6. If many of our people seem to be uninvolved or uninterested, it is primarily because of an overriding concern for economic survival during very hard times. The real and urgent concerns of the poor should be given highest priority amid (the) search for truth. Indeed, the search for truth is integrally linked to the fate of the poor. Corruption and dishonesty have made the lot of the poor worse.

7. Government and private sector to address the urgent needs of the poor in fields (of major concern), such as education, health, housing, livelihood and the like, should continue to be supported and, indeed, intensified. This is especially urgent in view of the looming international oil crisis. *(To be continued)*

'Krisis'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WE KEEP HEARING THE WORD "CRISIS" THESE DAYS SO I wasn't surprised when UGAT (Ugnayang Pangagham Tao or Anthropology Association of the Philippines) adopted "An Anthropology of Crisis" as the theme of its convention which, this year, was held in Miag-ao, Iloilo.

I was asked to deliver the convention's keynote address yesterday, and I thought that, since the INQUIRER is always talking about crises, I should share some of the thoughts.

Pinoy crisis

We tend to use the word *"krisis"* in the Philippines, which we borrowed from Spanish. Both Spanish and English use the word "crisis," so let's look at how one English dictionary, Encarta, defines the word:

"1. a dangerous or worrying time, a situation or period in which things are very uncertain, difficult, or painful, especially a time when action must be taken to avoid complete disaster or breakdown.

"2. critical moment. A time when something very important for the future happens or is decided.

"3. MEDICINE. Turning point in disease. A point in the course of a disease when the patient suddenly begins to get worse or better.

Encarta says the word "crisis" emerged in English around the 15th century, via the Latin language, from the Greek word *krisis* (decisive moment), which comes from the word (also Greek) *krinein* (to decide)."

Decisive action

Words do change in their meanings when they're borrowed. The way we use the word "krisis" is defined this way in UP's "Diksiyunaryong Filipino": 1. *panganib, peligro* 2: *labis na pagdarahop o pagsasalat*.

It seems then that we did carry over some of the Spanish and English connotations of crisis, particularly notions of danger, but we tended to emphasize an element of extreme hardship and deprivation.

Given these very intense definitions, it should not be surprising that our perspective of a crisis is to weather the hardship, to survive, to cope. When we do survive, we seem satisfied with that, patting ourselves on the back and congratulating ourselves for adapting so easily, for being so resilient. Why, we even compare ourselves to the carabao, hard-working, uncomplaining, plodding along. My retort here: we are not carabaos, to be led around by the nose.

Opportunity

The English "crisis" and its Greek root word, emphasize that an important element in a crisis is the anticipation of decisive action, one that could result in a favorable outcome. The Chinese go a step further in their view of a crisis. The Chinese term for crisis consists of two words: *wei* and *ji*. *Wei* means "danger" and *ji* means "opportunity." So on the one hand, while the Chinese share many cultures' equating a crisis with danger, they recognize the opportunity that comes with that danger.

It isn't surprising that American and European business strategy books like to refer to this Chinese term. A crisis becomes more of a challenge and an opportunity, which business people love. It is not surprising, too, that there have been so many versions of Sun Tzu's "The Art of War," a Chinese treatise on military strategy dating back to the 6th century B.C., which talks not only about preventing and dealing with crisis, but also about many situations that call for creating a crisis, to be able to move forward and resolve a long-standing problem.

Even more than business people, politicians thrive on crisis situations. It's not surprising then that politicians, especially those in power, will sometimes manipulate the situation to create a crisis, which then allows them to come through as the knight in shining armor (or, in the case of our present leadership, as Darna) ready to save the people from the very dire straits they led us into.

Melodrama

I worry that we are developing a crisis mentality, in a negative sense. We seem almost masochistic, looking for and deriving perverse pleasure from crises. Let me qualify further: maybe, it's a form of macho masochism, as we boast about how we go through one crisis after another, described graphically with male bluster: *kapit sa patalim*, grasping on to sharp objects to survive.

Crises provide materials for soap operas, and more. Our congressional circuses, with endless investigations, are the ultimate in terms of reality television. Then, too, there are the many charity programs where you can go and cry your heart out, talking about the latest medical crisis in the family. If you can't feed the masses, then entertain them, using their own hardship as material.

And what do all these do? They reinforce our notions of passive acceptance of the crisis. We shake our heads, throw our hands into the air, and say, *"Pinoy kasi!"* Or go off to a karaoke joint and sing "Habang May Buhay" (As long as there's life). Sure, they're functional, helping us to cope, but there has to be limits to the melodrama.

I have to go beyond mere depictions of slum families where 12 children try to survive on instant noodles. We need to be asking ourselves why we've reached this dismal state, and what might be done here. Instead, after many of these documentaries, we end up blaming the victims themselves, or, at best, smiling at the quaint coping strategies they have.

I recently talked with Melba Maggay of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture. She told me about a study her organization was doing on micro-financing. She said she uncovered many success stories of women overcoming all odds with these small loans. She also shared some of the problems, such as husbands frittering away the income. In these times of crisis, we need more of those stories, told as it happened, warts and all.

We need to be able to prevent a crisis early enough, but there will be times when some crises will erupt. We inherit our problems, paying for the neglect of previous generations. So when a crisis does erupt, we need to be able to see this as an opportunity for resolving its root causes, including those that date back in history. A crisis will sometimes subside, but leaving the problems unresolved will allow the crisis to fester, waiting to erupt again in the future, vicious, gangrenous—perhaps, insurmountable.

We need to draw the best of different worlds, understanding from the Chinese *wei ji* the need to see the opportunities presented in a crisis, and from the Greek *krisis*, to know when the critical moments demand a decisive action.

Stars for a clean energy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME "STRANGE"—IN THE sense of rare and unusual—goings-on in the world of Philippine entertainment lately. Bands, singers, models, VJs, actors—all have been strutting their stuff clad in identical outfits, even if their fame requires them to each establish a unique identity and image. The same people have also been preaching a singular message in their spiels and endorsements. And strangest of all, some celebrities have even begun turning the tables on their fans and followers, approaching utter strangers in malls and public places and asking them for their autographs—sometimes in exchange for their own.

No, it isn't something in the water that has made these famous folk behave bizarrely, or at least out of the expected. But, perhaps, we can say it's something in the air—rather, the atmosphere.

What's making these celebrities act this way is the campaign "Star Power for Clean Power," which harnesses the wattage of visible and popular artists and public figures to draw attention to the issue of global warming; as well as to appeal to young people to get involved and add their voices to the advocacy for "clean" energy. As the campaign spiel goes: "You don't have to be a celebrity to be a star—just go for clean power!"

Spearheaded by Greenpeace Southeast Asia, "Star Power for Clean Power" offers a menu of "creative and meaningful activities" that celebrities can choose from—15-second messages aimed at a young audience, wearing Star Power campaign T-shirts during public appearances, visiting the Rainbow Warrior during its visit to the Philippines and signing the ship's banner petition, and "street sign-ups," that involve getting signatures from the public during hour-long campaigns.

"Star Power is about the necessity and appeal of individuals taking action—because the truth is, young Filipinos do not need to be celebrities in order to contribute to positive change. And who better to drive home this message than celebrities?" states Greenpeace regional energy campaigner Red Constantino in his letter appealing to celebrities to join the campaign.

* * *

AMONG THE CELEBRITIES who responded early to Greenpeace's appeal was model/VJ/host Amanda Griffin, who's already recorded a 15-second video spiel on climate change. She also descended on a "surprised but cheering public" at the Alabang Town Center one weekend, approaching shoppers for their signatures on the Greenpeace appeal to the Philippine government to increase to 10 percent by 2010 the share of energy from renewable sources, especially the sun, wind and modern biomass.

"I was quite embarrassed by my gender," confesses Constantino who joined Griffin at the "street sign-up," recalling how googly-eyed young men would approach Griffin, their cell phone cameras at the ready, only to be taken aback when she asked them to give her their autographs instead. So committed is Griffin to the issue that she has promised, her schedule permitting, to join the three-day "bearing witness" dive of the Rainbow Warrior to Tubbataha Reef on Oct. 29.

Agot Isidro is another committed celebrity, collecting signatures from her peers in show business and appearing every now and then (such as on a recent appearance in "Star in a Million") on TV wearing a Greenpeace shirt.

Even supposedly iconoclastic rock bands have entered the picture. The band The Dawn has also done their 15-seconder with Jett Pangan telling their fans that "Cool ain't cool. Make the switch to clean energy—now!" The band members have also been wearing Greenpeace T-shirts during their concerts. Another band that jumped early on the "Star Power" bandwagon is True Faith, which Constantino says has been a long-time Greenpeace supporter.

Other stars who've lent their names, faces and time to the campaign are: Diether Ocampo along with his band Blow, recording artists Jay R and Kitchie Nadal.

* * *

AMONG THE FIRST entities to throw its support behind the Greenpeace campaign for clean energy was MTV Philippines, which has begun airing some of the 15-second video spiels, while their VJs have also been wearing the campaign tees from time to time. "When we discussed the issue with them and asked for their support," recalls Constantino, "MTV managing director Jack Madrid said: 'Well, this issue is too urgent to ignore. What can we do to help?'"

The campaign among the entertainment community—and, it is hoped, among the public at large—has gained momentum, an optimistic Constantino says.

"The other night in SaGuijo (currently the hottest gathering hole for rock band fans), the hottest young bands of the land—Sugarfree, Twisted Halo and Cambio—appeared onstage wearing Greenpeace T-shirts, and one after another called on the audience and their fans to sign the petition we were passing around. After their all-night gig, the bands also recorded their 15-second messages," Constantino narrates.

* * *

THOSE who easily condemn actors, musicians, and other performers for their supposed indifference to social issues should take note of the ready involvement of celebrities in the Greenpeace campaign. "Not everyone can do everything. What we hope to accomplish in this campaign is to show that celebrities, as well as ordinary people, can help stop global warming by doing whatever they can, even if it's only signing a petition," says Constantino.

"There's no doubt about it—whoever said campaigning against coal and for clean energy is not cool is one big fool. Communities, NGOs, individual advocates, all the members of the movement for clean renewable energy have long led the way, and now they have glittering company, too. Now if only the Department of Energy will listen ... 10 by 2010 is not asking for the moon."

More Halloween stories on heritage

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE HORROR STORIES RECOUNTED IN THE last column were too early for Halloween, but they drew some response from readers. Fr. Milan Ted Torralba, who hails from Bohol, and now assigned to the Apostolic Nunciature in Manila, "texted" that a group of which he was a part recovered in 1998 what was left of pigskin *cantorales* with notes in Gregorian chant. These were stored in the Tagbilaran Diocesan Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church. He promised to scout for similar material. While we appreciate the prestige that comes with his promotion and present appointment, we wish that he maintain his interest in the heritage of Bohol.

We also have to make clarifications on the remnants of the long lost Carlos V. Francisco mural now in the care of National Library Director Prudenciana Cruz. The mural was made in 1952 on the theme "400 years of Philippine History" for the International Fair. It was displayed in Rizal Park. So impressive was this mural that it was given a full color spread in Newsweek (not Time as stated in my column) in 1953. When the mural was dismantled by workmen, it was stored in a building on Lepanto Street, Sampaloc where it was then recycled for minor building repairs. What remained of the mural was later transferred to the National Library on TM Kalaw street. While we have lost the mural, the remaining panels can provide art historians with a way to know and understand Francisco's working method.

I started this column with bright news and will have to end with one last horror story on cultural heritage. In the late 1980s, I contemplated a career shift from history to archeology that turned out to be a failed experiment. I was physically unfit for archeological excavation having been turned into a couch potato by library and archival research. Worse, I did not have the required natural science subjects that are handmaids to archeology: chemistry, biology, botany, and anatomy. I became a historian because I only took basic math and science courses in school.

I funded a National Museum archeological expedition to Barrio Laguile, Batangas, in order to see first hand how scientific excavation was undertaken. There was no archeological program available in Manila, and this was literally hands-on training. I don't know what Laguile means, but everyone knows that Batangas is a rich archeological site. The names of places in Batangas can be suggestive: a town called Kalansayan suggested a place of skeletons or a grave site; Calatagan was a place where you lay things or people flat or *latag*. Calatagan being a major archeological site probably got its name from all the corpses laid to rest there in pre-Spanish times.

We rented a plot of land from a local farmer and began to dig. There are too many (mis)adventures worth recounting in that exercise but, to cut a long story short, we did not find the untouched burial complex I was dreaming about. All I brought home with were boxes of broken shards from pre-colonial Philippine earthenware. Not a single piece of Oriental ceramic, not even a sherd was found. Not all was lost though because, on the third day of excavation, farmers from nearby fields came to the site with baskets that yielded not only vegetables and fruits but an array of Oriental ceramics: Ming blue and white, celadon ware, some dark dull Thai pieces all literally dirt cheap. For example, a Ming blue and white saucer with frolicking Fu dogs could be had for a hundred pesos. Had I purchased the whole lot and sold a third of it in Manila, I could have actually made money rather than burn it on the excavation. I reluctantly declined the wares because to purchase even one would have encouraged the farmers to continue pot-hunting or the illegal retrieval of archeological artifacts.

Despite my little sermon about the importance of safeguarding our cultural heritage and my advice that they inform the National Museum whenever they find archeological specimens while tilling their fields, nobody seemed to care. One of the farmers tried to break my position by inviting me to reconsider their wares. I then replied that all Oriental ceramics were "imported" ware and I was interested in the older, Philippine-made earthenware. They looked at each other and laughed. "Is that what you really want? Nobody buys that!" One of them said they had found a whole pit with earthenware nearby. When I asked what became of these, he proudly said that they destroyed everything.

When I asked why, he replied: "There was no porcelain there, no profit there, it was a waste of time." Another farmer gleefully recounted how they found earthenware jars which they lined up on the ground and used them as duckpins, smashing them with freshly picked coconuts that served as makeshift bowling balls. One cannot imagine how terrible it was to listen to all this. Proof of our pre-Spanish past completely vanished because of sheer ignorance.

If ordinary people are not made to appreciate and value the tangible and intangible heritage in their midst, these artifacts in their daily lives will never get to be displayed and preserved in our National Museum, National Library, National Archives, Cultural Center and National Historical Institute. The first step in heritage protection is to develop an appreciation for our heritage.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

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Constitution and prosperity

IN ITS 216 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THE US Constitution has undergone only 27 amendments, done piecemeal. Amendment XXVII was ratified on May 7, 1992. Perhaps, we can learn a lesson or two from this American experience. I am pointing this out if we really have to change our Constitution due to forces beyond our control. But, for sure, we cannot afford the billions of pesos needed to hold a Constitutional Convention.

Personally, I strongly believe there is no urgent need at this time to change our Constitution (it is only 18 years old). What we have to change actually is ourselves.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Please note that the United Kingdom has no written Constitution, yet it is one of the G-8 countries. To those who say that changing our Constitution will mean better lives for us, I say: "Tell that to the Marines."

—PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City

Muslims decry GMA's militarist, repressive schemes

WE, FROM THE UNION OF MUSLIMS FOR Morality & Truth (UMMAT), a loose coalition of concerned Muslim citizens in Metro Manila and Mindanao, laud the efforts of our fellow god-fearing Christian brothers and sisters in the Sinag Movement for coming together to challenge bravely the rise of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the country's next dictator.

Despite the unwillingness of other religious leaders to join the spreading peoples' movement calling for the resignation or ouster of Ms Arroyo, our brothers and sisters of the cloth have chosen to stand firm under the banner of righteousness to oppose GMA's ruthless efforts and shameful attempts to cling to power.

It is a true act of patriotism and courage to proclaim one's defiance against the militarist Arroyo government. May this be an example to other Muslim and Christian brothers and sisters who are driven by the instinct of self-preservation and hesitate to act for fear of the consequences of being pro-people, pro-truth and pro-freedom. Indeed, we have reached another point in the history of our nation when patriots are persecuted rather than extolled, for such is the way of fascists and dictators.

We urge all Filipinos and Muslims to relive the brave legacy of our people in fighting injustice and oppression. We have toppled a 20-year-old dictatorship. We should not allow a rising dictator to once again kill our peoples' hard-won freedom.

We, Muslims, will link hands with our Christian brothers and sisters to defy the calibrated preemptive response and all militarist and repressive schemes that the Arroyo government will use to bury the President's crimes against justice and truth. We will not stop until she sees herself in the same place as her predecessor.

—NASSER MAROHOMSALIC, former commissioner, Commission on Human Rights; head convener, Union of Muslims for Morality & Truth (UMMAT); convener, White Ribbon Movement, Fairview, QC

About that water cannon

The subject of dispersing a peaceful rally with a water cannon brought back powerful memories from the '80s. Here are some comments—pro and con—on the episode, from Inq7.net readers.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

DIRECTOR VIDAL QUEROL, METRO Manila Police chief, tried to justify the use of water cannon against ralliers by invoking "imminent danger." How could he claim "imminent danger" when what his men dispersed was a prayer rally and it was led by bishops, priests, a lady senator and a certain old man named Teofisto Guingona. I think bishops, priests, ladies and old men are generally wimpy, they can't even kill a worm. Furthermore, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza himself said that the objective of the ralliers was to go to San Beda College. What's the danger of going to a college? Was the mayor of Manila afraid that the ralliers were going to throw books at him from the college library?

Another thing: Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez wants to have a debate with Vice President Guingona. What does Secretary Gonzalez think of himself? A brilliant person? But it's very clear in his TV interviews that he is intellectually weak. Even in the impeachment of former President Estrada, he revealed himself before the public that he was not a competent prosecutor and is not really good in English.—**Alvin Rex Agulto, alvinrex01@yahoo.com**

* * *

What happened to the group of Guingona was proof that no one is above the law. I admire those who dispersed the rally, and the policemen need not even say sorry. We should not allow a double standard here. The group was allowed to stage a prayer rally at Plaza Miranda and no one stopped them. They had the right to do whatever they wanted to do and stay there, that is the essence of democracy. But extending the rally beyond the time and place allowed them was unlawful; they did that and violated the terms of the rally permit granted them, and they were supposed to know that. I don't care who they are. The law is the law and no one may break it. Not even a priest, a senator and a former vice president.—**Minh Apil, minh_apil@yahoo.com**

* * *

Using a high-pressure fire hose to disperse rallies is justifiable. In the United Kingdom, one of the world's bedrocks of democracy, street protesters have to ask permission from the government if their number is so enormous that they could block traffic flow and disrupt peace in the community. They have a restricted area which the protesters are not allowed to enter. The police in the UK can arrest protesters and even harm them if they break the law. I think we should change our rotten presidential form of government with a parliamentary system. We are very good as politicians but very bad when it comes to mathematics and formulating simple equations to solve our problems. What's going on?—**Andy P. Era, AERA1972@aol.com**

* * *

Out of this chaos, God will bring about something good—His rule in our society and in the hearts of His people. Let every Filipino do what he or she believes to be the right thing to do within the law. But the most important action that we should take is to turn to God. The main problem is our "disconnection" from God. We live on our own and miss the life of God's kingdom. I call on our priests and preachers to go back to the proclamation of the good news of God's kingdom, which was brought to us through Christ. Let us preach the good news of forgiveness and call people to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.—**Daniel M. Villa, danemvilla@netvigator.com**

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₱200 hike in power rates projected

BAGUIO CITY—THE PARTY-LIST GROUP ASSOciation of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) yesterday said consumers in the provinces should expect an almost P200 increase in their November and December power consumption bills due to the value added tax on electricity.

Luis Manuel Corral, Apec secretary general, released a comparative list of electricity price increases for consumers in Abra, Ilocos Sur, Quezon, Bohol, Zamboanga City and other regions to justify the party's amendatory bill exempting power generation from the VAT coverage.

The expanded VAT law (Republic Act 9337) was passed on May 24 to remove the tax shields protecting electricity and fuel. It would have been applicable on July 1 had critics not gone to court to stop it.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the law was valid. Malacañang announced that the expanded VAT would finally take effect on Nov. 1.

Corral said Apec's House Bill 4633 "corrects" the argument used to pass RA 9337, which asserts a "no pass-through" provision.

The Apec bill, authored by Apec Representatives Ernesto Pablo, Sunny Rose Madamba and Edgar Valdez, said the current VAT structure "is contrary to the previous thinking that VAT on power could be prescribed with a 'no pass-through clause,' which would have ensured that only the power generator, transmission system or power distributor would be liable to pay the VAT."

The "no pass-through clause" would have restricted industries from passing down their tax burden to consumers.

According to Apec's tabulation, VAT will impose an average increase of 45 centavos to 80 centavos for every kilowatt hour (kwh) of electricity generated by the Abra Electric Cooperative, the Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative, the Zambales I Electric Cooperative, the Cebu III Electric Cooperative, Davao del Norte Electric Cooperative and three Zamboanga power companies.

The list itemized the rate increase of 25 representative cooperatives of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

The highest increase, posted at P171.75, will be felt by residents in Siquijor who consume up to 200 kwh of electricity. The lowest increase, posted at P82.33, will affect Zamboanga del Norte consumers who consume the same amount of power each month.

Gerardo Versoza, general manager of the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco), said Baguio residents who consume 200 kwh monthly may expect an additional P140 charge next month.

He said it is unclear how the Bureau of Internal Revenue intends to collect VAT through rural electric cooperatives. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'TOU' blamed for rise in electric costs

NAGA CITY—FLUCTUATING POWER RATE prices based on specific time-use, technically called "time-of-use" or TOU, has jacked up the electric bills of power consumers since May, a power cooperative executive said here.

Rodolfo Pasumbal, acting general manager of Camarines Sur Electric Cooperative II (Casureco II), said the TOU has been ordered implemented by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) following the provisions of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Pasumbal said the power rate based on the fluctuating prices has increased power bill charges from P3.80 per kilowatt-hour to more than P4.

He said that ideally, the computation of the power rate following the TOU must come from a special meter that stores memory of specific power consumption in a given time.

Pasumbal said in the absence of special meters, the Casureco II has to demand from consumers the TOU computed bills based on a formula the ERC provided.

But he said that one bottling plant in the city has been granted an exemption from the TOU computation because the company demands installation of the special meter.

In the April 13 decision, the ERC set the effectivity of the TOU computation in Luzon and Visayas grids to be "passed on to the end-users through the Automatic Generation Rate Adjustment (Agra) mechanism."

The TOU computation varies but is simultaneous in the two power grids using two classifications, the low-off peak and peak hours where power rate prices are directly proportional.

Pasumbal said when followed rigidly in the power consumption routine, the TOU could actually reduce electric consumption cost by doing power-demanding activities like ironing clothes or other similar routines in the offices, establishments and homes during the low-off peak hours.

But the city government and a consumers' welfare group have denounced the TOU implementation without public knowledge for almost five months now.

Dr. Domingo Yu, chair of People's Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power), called the TOU implementation as additional burden to the power consumers that the ERC must stop implementing.

Yu added that the five-month implementation of the TOU computation without the knowledge of the power consumers is unjustifiable considering, he said, that the guidelines were dated Oct. 13, 2005. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Diocese asks GMA to stop demolitions

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE CATHOLIC Diocese of Malolos in Bulacan has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the demolition of houses along the routes of the $503-million NorthRail project until the relocation sites for some 15,000 families in the province are complete and adequate.

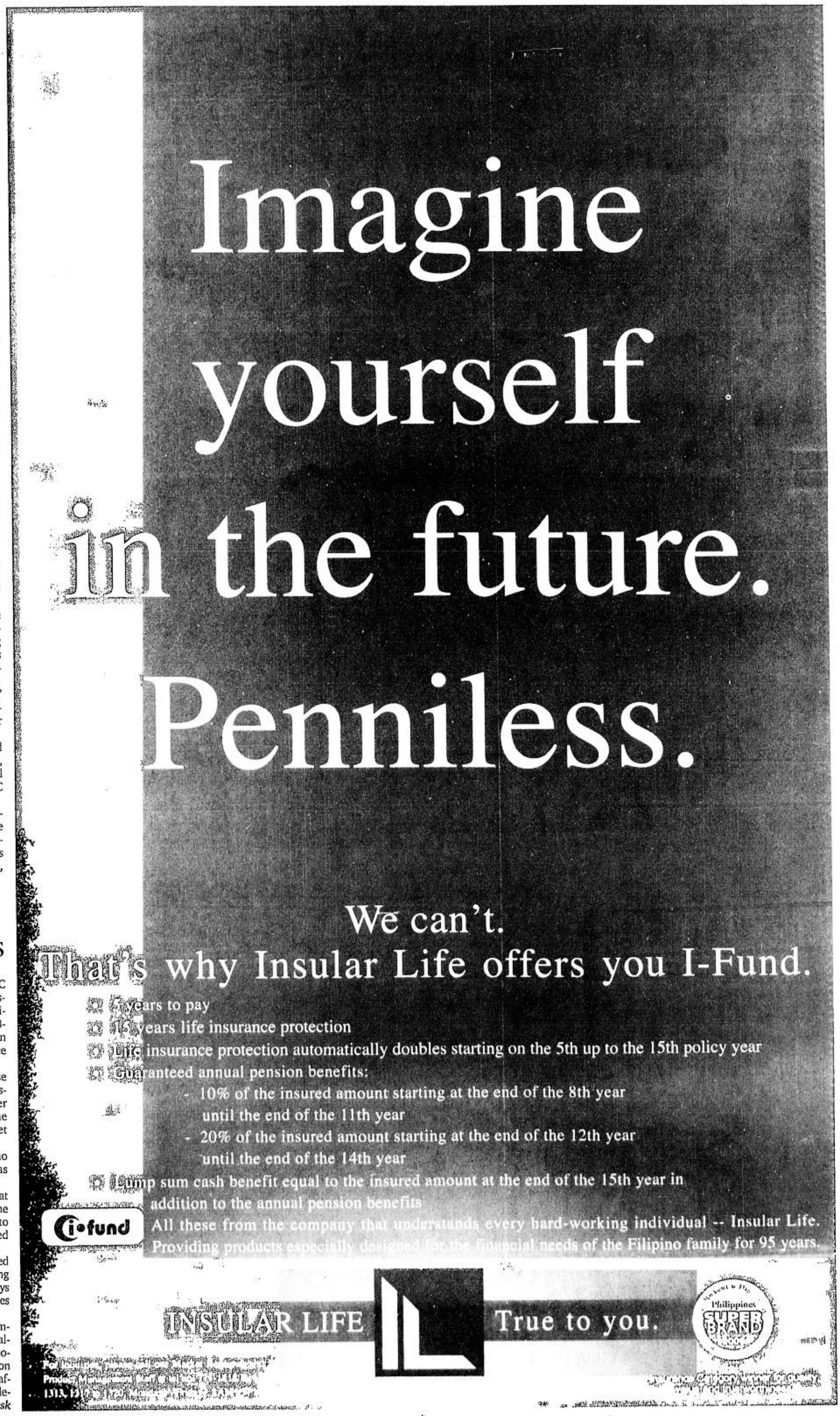
Bulacan Bishop Jose Oliveros and Fr. Jose Dennis Espejo, chair of the diocesan commission on service, told the President in a letter last week that the sites being offered by the National Housing Authority were "not yet habitable and not fit for habitation."

The resettlements, they said, still have no supply of water and electricity as well as drainage and sewerage systems.

Oliveros and Espejo were also "shocked" that parishioners who had been transferred to the sites "stayed in tents and remained exposed to the elements for several weeks." They worried over the condition of the elderly and children.

According to them, government officials failed to live up to their assurance that no family along the old tracks of the Philippine National Railways in Bulacan would be transferred until the villages intended as relocation sites were ready.

These are in Bayugo in Meycauayan; Lambakin in Marilao; Batia in Bocaue; Santol in Balagtas; Malis in Guiguinto; and Bangkal in Malolos, according to the Task Force Riles, a coalition of nongovernment organizations helping the affected communities demand for suitable resettlements. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



ELECTRIC SERVICE IN THESE AREAS WILL BE MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED FOR FACILITIES UPGRADING AND OTHER LINE WORK.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

MERALCO

POSTED ONLINE AT THE MERALCO WEBSITE, www.meralco.com.ph

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005

QUEZON CITY, CALOOCAN CITY AND MALABON CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 53E

Portion of Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. (South Side) from Cloverleaf to and including B. Serrano St. including Biglang Awa, Urbano Plata and Asuncion Sts. in Caloocan City.
Portion of Asuncion, V. Concepcion Sts. and Reparo Road from Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. to and including RDC Industrial Compound, Monserrat, Guadalupe, Paz, Pilar, Loreto, Gen. Tinio Sts. in Morning Breeze Subd., Caloocan City; Santan and Camia Sts. in Bgy. Potrero, Malabon City.
Portion of Biglang Awa St. from Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. to and including 12th Ave., Jacinto, William S. Shaw, Macabagdal, S. Asistio, Panganiban and A. Rivera Sts. in Caloocan City.
Portion of B. Serrano St. from Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. to and including L. Tolentino, Asistio, 6th and 7th Sts. in Caloocan City.
REASON: Various maintenance work along Epifanio Delos Santos Ave. in Caloocan City.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2005

PARAÑAQUE CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS PARAÑAQUE 17ZJ AND 18ZJ

Portion of Quirino Ave. and Tramo Road from near Meralco-Parañaque Branch Office to near Parañaque City – Las Piñas City boundary including Bonifacio, Pelaez, Leonardo, Dandan, Gomez, Balagtas, Patricio, Rodriguez, Pulo, Gabriel, Dimalimbangan, Dahlia, Rosal, De Leon, Damayan, Gomburza, McDonough, Villamar 1st & 2nd Sts., Kiu Pat Hong Shiao Taoist Temple, Sta. Monica Parish Church and IEMELIF Church in Bgys. Tambo, Don Galo, Ibayo, Sto. Niño, La Huerta and San Dionisio.
Along Kabihasnan and Real Sts. from Quirino Ave. to and including Jaleville Subd., PNCC MCCRRP Office and Parañaque Municipal High School in Bgy. San Dionisio.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco Parañaque substation.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2005

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 57E

Portion of Tandang Sora Ave. from near Quirino Highway to and including Far East Industrial Supply & Co. and Durex Paper Products in Bgy. Talipapa, San Bartolome.
REASON: Replacement of broken pole along Tandang Sora Ave. in Bgy. Talipapa, San Bartolome, Quezon City

CAVITE (INDANG AND TRECE MARTIREZ CITY)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 11:45AM AND 12:00NN – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT TMC – I 32WX AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT SILANG 32WS

Portion of Trece Martirez - Indang Highway from Meralco-TMC-I substation to and including Petron gas station, Indang Municipal Hall, Bgys. Mataas Na Lupa, Kayquit, Buna Cerca, Mahabang Kahoy, Buna Lejos, Bancod, Calumpang Cerca, Agusos, Calumpang Lejos, Banaba Cerca, Kaytambog, Tambo, Guyam Malaki, Lumampong, Pulo, Guyam, P. Burgos, De Ocampo, Dimabiling Sts., Cocoville Subd., Dr. A. Pio de Roda Elem. School, Calumpang Western Cavite Institute, Don Severino Agricultural College, Cavite State University, St. Gregory Academy, Diane Western Cavite Institute, JTD Feeds in Indang; William Ong, Jaro Devt. Corp., Cavite Feedmills, Tradition Homes, Andres Bonifacio Hospital, Marcin's Egg Farm, Public Safety Bldg., Capitol Hills, Bgys. Luciano, Inocencio, Bagong Pook and Aguado in Trece Martirez City.

BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TMC – I 37XW

Portion of TMC - Indang Highway from Meralco-TMC substation to near Transville Homes including TMC Market and TMC Capitol in Trece Martirez.
Portion of Naic - Trece Martirez Highway from TMC-Indang Highway to and including Rural Health Unit, Camella Homes, Don Bosco Exec. Village in Bgy. Cabuco and Masagana Gas Corp. in Trece Martirez.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco TMC I substation.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 - 28, 2005

BULACAN (BOCAUE AND MARILAO)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 10/27/05) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 10/28/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS BOCAUE 44YE AND 46YE

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco - Bocaue substation to and including Hotshot Restaurant, Saog Road, Meralco Village 7 – Heilbronn, Fausta Village, Vitarich Corp., Town and Country Executive Village in Manlao; Sanyo Ware Plastics, New Sanyo City Plastic Products and Emerson Wood in Bgy. Lolomboy, Bocaue.
REASON: Relocation of facilities due to DPWH – road widening project along McArthur Highway in Marilao and Bocaue, Bulacan.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2005

CAVITE

BETWEEN 7:30AM AND 7:45AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:15AM AND 5:30PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ROSARIO 42RS AND 43RS AND ABUBOT 37XZ,38XZ AND 39XZ

The whole of Rosario.
The whole of Noveleta except Bgy. San Juan.
Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from near Imus-Dasmariñas boundary to near Governor Drive Intersection including Arcontica Subd. Resort, Crescent Hills Village, Villa Remedios, Southfield Subd., Villa Luisa Homes, portion of Don Placido Campo Drive, Magsaysay Institute of Shipping, Via Verde Village, Cantimbuhan Rice Mill, St. Charbel South, Cityland Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Lankaan, Magno Gonzales, Sitio de Fuego in Dasmariñas; Monterey Farms, Berlite Industries, Gen. Trias-Amadeo Road, ADC Ready Mix, Bgy. Manggahan, Metro South Subd. and Sitio Santusan in Gen. Trias.
Along Salitran Road including Sunnycrest Village, Summerwind Village, Summer Meadow Subd., South Meridian Homes, Garden Grove 1-4, Andreaville Executive Homes, TUP-Dasmariñas, The Orchard Golf and Country Club and Raintree Homes in Dasmariñas.
Portion of Molino Road from Salitran Road to near Queen's Row Road including San Miguel I, Georgetown Heights Subd., St. Mary Homes, Springville West, Molino 3, Annaville Subd. and Progressive Village 5 in Bacoor.
Portion of Gov. D. Mangubat Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to Congressional South Road including University Medical Center, Jopauen Realty, Student Village, Bgy. Burol, Manuela Village, Summerwind IV and Southcrest Village in Dasmariñas.
Along Congressional South Road including Burol I and II, Areas C and H, Sta. Fe, Clusters B and D, San Francisco, Citihomes, Bo. San Mateo, Bo. Pag-asa, Victoria Reyes Props., Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmariñas.
REASON: Transco maintenance work along Dasmariñas – Abubot – Rosario 115 kV transmission line.

MARIKINA CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MELI 18XB

Portion of E. Jacinto and V. Santos Sts. from W. De La Paz St. to Shoe Ave. including E. Rodriguez Sr. Memorial Hospital and Jollibee - Shoe Ave. in Bgys. Sto. Niño and Sta. Elena.
Portion of E. De La Paz St. from Kapt. Moy St. to near Nicanor Roxas St. including Florencio Paz, Shoe Ave. Ext., B. Sta. Ana, H. Roxas and Redwood Sts. in Bgys. Sta. Elena and San Roque.
Portion of Angel Tuazon St. from Mt. Everest St. to Marcos Highway including St. Gregory Subd., Marikina East Subd., Maginhawa Pag-ibig Town III and Midtown I, II and III Subds. in Bgy. San Roque.
Portion of J. P. Laurel Sr. St., from Mt. Everest St. to Angel Tuazon St. including Mt. Kennedy, Mt. Etna, Mt. Wilson, and Mt. Washington Sts. in Mountain View Village, Bgy. San Roque.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco Meli substation.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.
For more information, please contact our CALL CENTER at telephone number **16211**, fax nos. **1622-8554**, or e-mail address **callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph**. For faster resolution of inquiries, please use the *Bill ID Number* or *Service Identification Number (SIN)* indicated in your electric bills.
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CAMIGUIN FEAST
A performer gestures in prayer during the 26th Lanzones Festival on Camiguin Island, which was visited by President Macapagal-Arroyo. EDWIN BACASMAS

LGUs on their own in funding family planning

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—Local governments cannot expect financial help from the national government for their contraceptive needs following the decision of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to phase out its family planning supply assistance in 2008.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act 7160) mandates local governments to provide family planning supplies to their constituents.

"The Department of Health will only provide technical assistance and management training to the LGUs' family planning program managers," Duque said in a recent visit here.

The DOH may help look for a source for LGUs that cannot afford to buy their contraceptive needs, "but it's a matter of the LGUs prioritizing the family planning program," he said.

The USAID has stopped shipping condoms to the Philippines in 2003, and will stop shipping birth control pills by 2007 and injectables by 2008.

Drained finances

But the agency has strengthened the technical assistance it has been extending to the country, Luz Muego, Pangasinan population officer, said.

The USAID has been helping the population program of the Philippines for 30 years by providing $3.5 million worth of family planning commodities yearly.

Muego said Pangasinan was the first province in the country that embarked on contraceptive self-reliance (CSR), a multisectoral effort that sought to ensure the country's self-sufficiency in family planning services and commodities.

She said when Gov. Victor Agbayani learned of the USAID's reduction of contraceptive supply assistance in 2002, he asked provincial officials to assess the family planning program of the province and prepare for the eventual USAID support pullout.

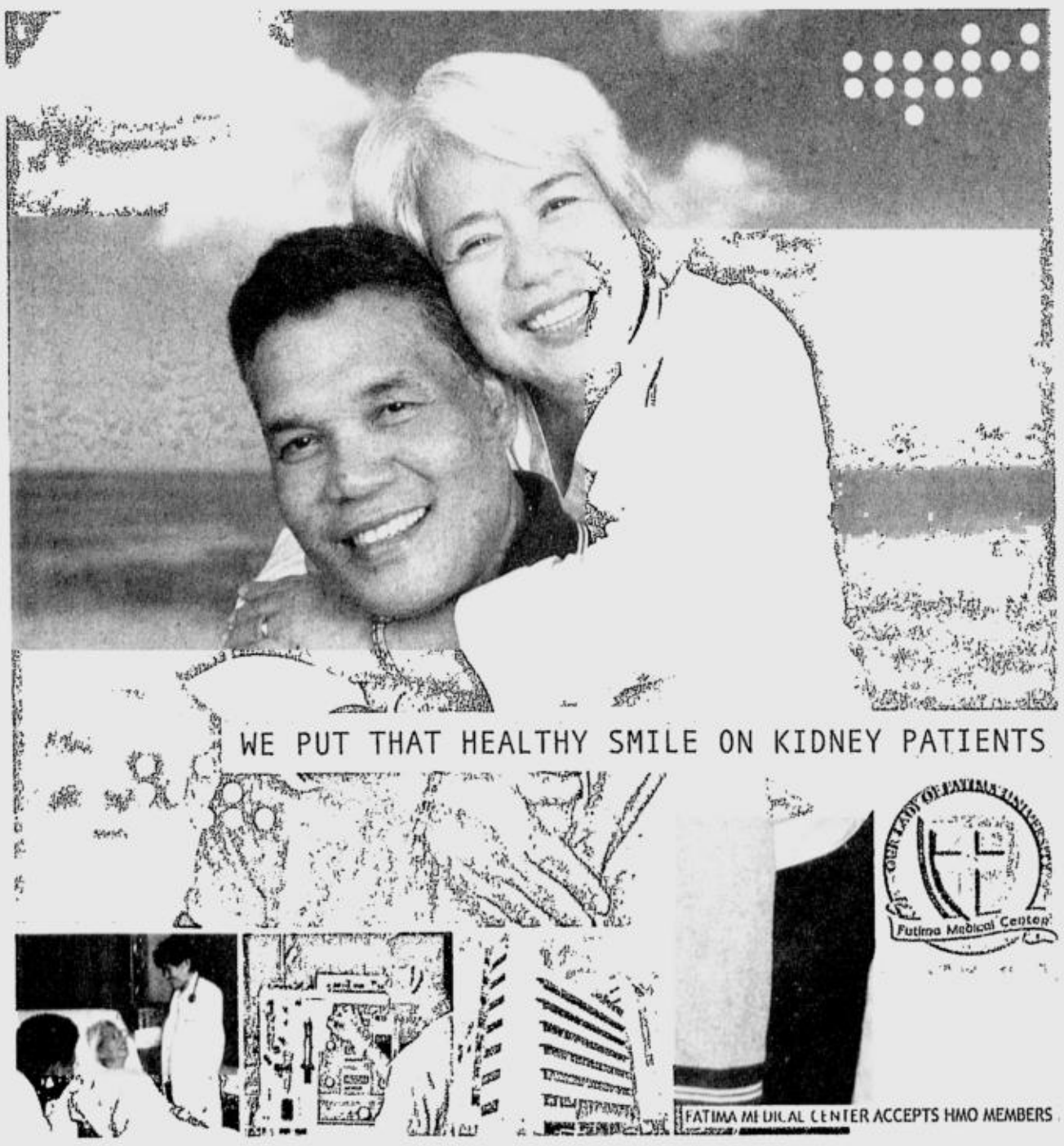
The provincial government and 26 towns in Pangasinan have started allocating budgets for family planning commodities. Muego said some business establishments, private clinics, doctors and midwives have also committed to support the CSR program.

Priorities

Under the CSR, only families who cannot afford to buy contraceptives will be given free supplies.

Pangasinan needs P8 million yearly to provide contraceptive supplies but the provincial government can afford to provide only a part of the need, Muego said.

She said while the province is working on self-reliance, "we still need a strong advocacy by the national government so that the people will know that family planning is a national government priority." ***Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***



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PhilHealth ACCREDITED

Toxic emissions found in Quezon power plant

By Blanche S. Rivera

TOXIC SUBSTANCES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN the emissions of a 10-year-old coal power plant in Pagbilao, Quezon, threatening the communities on the island and the bodies of water surrounding it.

Ash samples taken from the 735-megawatt Mirant power plant in Pagbilao has yielded .02 ug/g of mercury, 13 ug/g of arsenic, 14 ug/g of chromium and 5.60 ug/g of lead, laboratory tests done by the Institute for Pure and Applied Chemistry last month showed.

Mirant's Quezon plant was the last major coal power plant whose emissions were tested and found to contain hazardous substances that could be detrimental to people's health when they contaminate the air and water.

The tests were initiated by Greenpeace, which has been trying to get the government's attention on the health hazards of coal power plants.

"There is no accountability and there has been no transparency. That plant has been operating here for years, and yet nobody has told the people that they are emitting deadly substances," Fr. Raul Enriquez of Agdangan, Quezon, said in an interview yesterday.

Enriquez and members of Greenpeace, Tanggol Kalikasan and Kaakbay would lead a protest and Mass to Mirant's gates today, the first major protest against the power company which has been supported by both national and provincial governments.

Studies have shown that .002 lbs. or 1/70 of a teaspoon of mercury is enough to contaminate a 10-hectare lake to the point where its fishes would be deemed unfit for human consumption.

A typical 100-MW coal plant emits about 25 pounds of mercury a year, US-based experts said. Using this standard, Mirant's Pagbilao plant is estimated to emit at least 175 lbs. of mercury a year.

"This is just the toxic tip of the iceberg," Greenpeace's Red Constantino, energy campaigner for Southeast Asia, said.

He said the samples taken by Greenpeace from the major coal power plants in the country were just very small amounts from the ash field. The emissions that come out of the smokestack and which reach greater distances could be more toxic.

Constantino and Enriquez urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct an independent evaluation of the samples taken from the coal power plants to see for themselves the toxicity of plants' emissions.

Constantino said the DENR relied too much on the reports on emissions submitted by the power plant operators, which always claim that their operations do not create health hazards to the surrounding communities.

"The reason we're exposing this is so the government can act. The government has always had the power to permit but not the power to protect," Constantino said.

"When it comes to injustices like this, all the papers and certificates it has issued cannot protect the people," he said.

Mercury has been known to cause severe brain damage in developing fetuses and mild tremors, mental disorders, motor and emotional disturbances, even death, in exposed adults.

Long-term low level human exposures to arsenic, a known carcinogen, can damage the vascular system and injure the nervous system. Chromium is also carcinogenic.

Lead can cause damage to the kidneys, cardiovascular and nervous systems. Relatively low exposure to lead can affect the cognitive and behavioral development in children, studies have shown.

ROUNDUP

Woman bandit slain

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A female member of the Abu Sayyaf was among the four suspected bandits killed when government security forces raided Sacol Island here on Monday, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Wednesday. Earlier, the Naval Forces South reported that only two bandits were killed while a soldier died in the clash. Adan said only two bodies, including that of the female bandit, were recovered from the encounter site because the two bodies of the other slain bandits were dragged by their companions "including the six others wounded." The raid, launched hours before Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill met with military officials for security talks, came after the military confirmed that Isnilon Hapilon returned to the island, according to Adan. The identity of the female bandit was not immediately available but the other one was identified as Ustadz Uldong Arabin. Killed on the government side was Army Sgt. Armin Francisco. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Islamic teachers trained

DAVAO CITY—One hundred twenty *asatidz* (Islamic teachers) in Davao and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao finished the Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (Beam) at about the same time Canberra was finalizing plans to enter into a bilateral security agreement with the Philippines. The 23-day training program, funded by the Australian Agency for International Development, was intended to prepare and equip the *asatidz* with knowledge and skills to teach Arabic language and Islamic values in public schools that have registered a significant increase in the number of Muslim enrollees. The *asatidz* were also taught planning and teaching strategies under the program Basic English for *asatidz*. After Ramadan, Beam also plans to train 100 more *asatidz* from Sulu and Basilan to bring the number of trained *asatidz* to 370 this year. ***Rolly Pinsoy, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Shellfish ban stays

DAVAO CITY—The ban on the gathering and selling of shellfish in Balete Bay in Davao Oriental stays. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources regional director George Campeon said the ban, due to possible red tide poisoning, has been in place for almost a year now. He said although the presence of the red tide organism *Pyrodinium bahamense* in the Balete Bay is not so high, the government opted not to lift the ban to ensure the safety of the residents. In 2000, BFAR revealed a toxicity level of 46 micrograms per 100 grams of shellfish meat in the Balete Bay. ***Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Do's, don't's set in the battle for Mendiola

From page A1

march anywhere else.

"If they want to march to Mendiola, they should have a permit. They have to abide by the law," Querol said.

Battlecry: 'Reclaim Mendiola'

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said he expected at least 7,000 protesters to join today's march.

"It's not enough to threaten the collapse of the regime. However, if there are more of us, it would be more physically difficult for the police to break up our ranks."

The protesters' cry will be: "Reclaim Mendiola and oust Gloria."

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas said "do's and don't's" were sent to ralliers to ensure the protest was peaceful and prevent infiltration by provocateurs.

"Given the condition, the intensity of political repression, all participants have been properly briefed about what to do and what not to do," said Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the group.

Hold the ground

Last week, police pounded with water jets a religious march toward Malacañang led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and three Roman Catholic bishops.

"They (the protesters) have prepared for the rally politically, physically and morally," Corpuz said, adding that his group had long set their minds to reach Mendiola.

One explicit instruction to marchers was to keep an eye on unfamiliar faces.

"Remember [the person] beside you," according to the "do's and don't's" list for marchers which was sent to the INQUIRER through a text message. If one sees an unfamiliar face, he should immediately report to the organizers or rally marshalls.

NO-RALLY ZONE. Almost 30 container vans are now parked outside the Palace gate directly facing Mendiola Bridge. They are going to be used to further secure the already fortress-like defense perimeter around Malacañang. Other contraptions are being set up inside the Palace to repel an attack. REM ZAMORA

Preparing for tear gas

If the police start using water cannons, those up front should "hold their ground."

"Stay with the pack for a calibrated withdrawal and regrouping," the message said.

"Also, get ready with wet clothes in case the police use tear gas," it added. "If you get caught, invoke your right to silence and ask that you be represented by counsel of your choice."

Bayan's Reyes said today's march would be a peaceful one.

"We are not going to rush to the Palace. We'll come [and] go home right after the program in the afternoon," he said.

Threat of violence?

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes claimed to have a contrary information.

"We have received reports that there are some elements out to or planning to introduce violence into these demonstrations," Secretary Reyes said after meeting top police and military officers to plan for today's protests.

He said the reports were being verified.

"We're trying our best to be prepared for any eventuality," Reyes said, adding that these reports came primarily as a result of the discovery of two sacks of explosives in a rebel camp in Aurora province late last month. *(See story on Page A4.)*

What started it all

"This is the most disturbing report," he said, adding he was not trying to scare off people and that the authorities were not in the business of manufacturing stories.

After the meeting, officials announced that police stations in Luzon would be on full alert starting 6 p.m. yesterday.

Protests in Metro Manila have escalated despite the police's tough "no rally, no permit" stance under its so-called calibrated preemptive response (CRP) policy.

The protests were spurred by President Macapagal-Arroyo's failure to satisfactorily answer widespread demands for her to fully explain to the nation her supposed wiretapped phone conversations with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. In the bugged phone talk, Ms Arroyo allegedly conspired with Garcillano to tamper with the results of the 2004 election.

Allegations of other government anomalies sharpened the discontent.

Malacañang on its toes

Ms Arroyo's Presidential Security Group remained on its toes.

PSG chief Delfin Bangit said his unit continued to prepare for eventualities.

"What we are preparing for are reports that some groups would storm Mendiola or Malacañang," Bangit said in Filipino.

He said the PSG had received many such reports, including text messages.

Although most of the reports turned out to be false, the PSG "could not take things for granted."

In a seeming change of tack, police on Wednesday allowed a small group of protesters from the Black and White Movement to cross Mendiola and pray at the San Beda College church—but under police escort.

"When it comes to religious activity, we will respect that," Bataoil said of Wednesday's rally. "It was a religious activity."

Offering for Don Chino

Protesters have begun pouring into Metro Manila from the countryside, after they were initially blocked by police and military checkpoints on the outskirts of the capital.

Yesterday some 400 farmers representing seven organizations tried their luck to reach Mendiola but police rebuffed them, prompting them to accuse the government of applying a double standard on ralliers.

Stuck for nearly three hours on the corner of Recto Avenue and Morayta, the farmers, led by activist priest Robert Reyes and Xavierian missionary Archie Casey, negotiated with the police to allow them to offer a wreath of flowers at the statue of Chino Roces, the late freedom fighter and pre-martial law Manila Times publisher.

Rotting veggies

The farmers also brought with them rotting vegetables and empty nets to symbolize, they said, their continued suffering under Ms Arroyo.

When the farmers sat down on the street, police ground commander Supt. Romulo Sapitula finally allowed seven peasant leaders to conduct the ceremonial offering in Mendiola.

The group then peacefully dispersed. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Margaux C. Ortiz*

Protesters in slippers stop Makati traffic

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AMID SKYSCRAPERS AND men and women in coat and tie, protesters wearing not much more than slippers marched into the country's financial center before noon yesterday to protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo's rule.

Their clothes looking ragged after they had walked tirelessly for hours and slept nights on cold floors, roughly 1,000 farmers and the urban poor from Southern Tagalog made it to Makati City's business district on the fifth day of their Lakbayan (People's March) to Malacañang.

Earlier, as they crossed towns and city borders, they were met by police barricades.

But police were hardly in sight yesterday when they hit the turf of opposition leader and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

"The reason why we walked is because we do not have money to pay for fare ... We will attempt to go to Mendiola to tell her [Ms Arroyo] peacefully that she has to go. We walked from Calamba to Makati," said Bayani Cambronero, spokesperson of Southern Tagalog for the Ouster and Punishment of Gloria (Stop Gloria).

Catholic schools vow to seek truth about GMA

From page A1

versity of Santo Tomas.

Monsignor Santos said a gathering of officials and students from Catholic schools is set on Nov. 12 at St. Paul's College in Pasig.

It will be the continuation of a similar assembly held in July at St. Scholastica's College in Manila at the height of the clamor for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

The CEAP refused to join the bandwagon then and instead endorsed the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, which the House of Representatives quashed.

"The situation has changed a lot since the impeachment," Santos told reporters, adding that the group might issue another statement on the crisis.

Santos said the two organizations had decided to take it upon themselves to continue probing into the unresolved political crisis in response to last month's appeal by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) on the need for truth to come out in the face of a major crisis facing the Arroyo administration.

On their part, the Jesuit leadership in the country said Ms Arroyo had yet to sufficiently address the questions surrounding her legitimacy.

Confirms suspicions

The Jesuits' Commission on the Social Apostolate, in a set of guidelines released on Oct. 11, said the search for the truth behind the allegations of electoral fraud and corruption against the President must continue.

"The struggle to bring out the truth must go on ... The President has not sufficiently rendered an account to the people [about the] serious charges [that] have been raised against her," the commission said.

"Efforts to hide the facts only confirm the suspicions of many," it added.

The commission stressed: "To dismiss the search for truth in the name of stability is to condone the culture of impunity, by which those in power have long been able to commit crimes unpunished."

Discernment toward action

The paper, titled "Some Guidelines in a Time of Confusion and Crisis for Jesuits and Jesuit Institutions of the Philippine Province," was endorsed to all Jesuits and Jesuit institutions in the country by the provincial of the Society of Jesus in the Philippines, Fr. Daniel Patrick Huang.

Reflect and pray

"I ask that these Guidelines be read, reflected and prayed upon, and made the subject of serious discernment, toward action, by individuals, communities, and institutions. They may be shared with others who are seeking direction and guidance in our troubled time," Huang said in his endorsement letter.

"For my part, I personally believe that these Guidelines offer sound directions to help us 'read' our present situation and to orient us in our common search for authentic solutions to the grave problems of today. Nonetheless, these Guidelines are not presented as positions that all are compelled to accept and adhere to," he added.

The commission also voiced caution on proposals to amend the Constitution at this time.

A diversionary tactic

"While there may be reasons to consider amending the Constitution for the sake of greater responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of our people, Charter change as a diversionary tactic in times of political conflict, or as a means of perpetuating elite democracy, should be rejected," the commission said.

The commission issued the guidelines following Ms Arroyo's tussle with Congress, particularly the Senate, over investigations into supposed executive department misdeeds.

"Those who claim the 'rule of law' was triumphant in the recent impeachment proceedings confuse proceduralism with law. While it is true that the procedures of law were fulfilled, the spirit of the law was subverted," the commission said.

Evidence suppressed

"Evidence was not allowed to emerge," it said.

The document was prepared by the commission composed of Jesuit Fathers Albert Alejo, Miguel Lambino, Jose Cecilio Magadia, Antonio Moreno, Karel San Juan, Primitivo Viray, Peter Walpole and Roberto Yap.

The guidelines urged Congress to continue its investigations despite the call of the President for it to stop its investigations, which Malacañang had tagged as "in aid of destabilization."

"Peaceful and legal means that protect and strengthen our democratic institutions must be used in the continued search to bring out the truth," the commission said.

"In the same spirit, the legislature, especially the Senate, must not be remiss in its oversight functions, to ensure the system of checks and balances set in place by the Constitution," it added.

Moral obligation

It, however, said that "concrete actions do not support or strengthen groups with covert antidemocratic, adventurist or power grabbing agenda."

Still, the commission "respects" the decision of those who believe Ms Arroyo should step down.

"We respect the decision of those, who in conscience have reached a judgment that the President should not remain in office. Part of this process is the moral obligation to seriously consider alternatives that will be truly for the good of the country," the commission said.

The commission also called for reflection on the Philippine situation and took note of the seeming apathy among many Filipinos.

"It is necessary to listen to, reflect seriously on, and address the concerns of a large majority of people who seem apathetic or whose dissatisfaction does not seem to translate into political action," it said.

Imperial Manila

"Some, for example, have lost trust in all politicians. Others, especially those in the provinces, feel excluded by and resentful of what they perceive to be Manila deciding for the country again," it added.

"We still continue to respond to the truth. We in the education sector would want to strengthen our commitment to discern what is right and what is good," Santos told reporters.

He also said the CEAP's role was important in empowering its students to better discern the political crisis.

Sense of history

"The number of students apathetic to the situation is growing," he said. "I think we need to once again go back to our sense of history which our youth needs to cultivate a sense of nationalism."

Andaya may be budget chief; Bunye 'reward' confirmed

From page A1

up to the President."

The supposed changing of the guard at the Department of Budget and Management comes on the heels of the coming appointment of Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye as head of the Presidential Communications Group (PCG).

Malacañang yesterday confirmed the INQUIRER report that Ms Arroyo was preparing to name Bunye, who serves as her spokesperson, as her media czar.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President had decided it was time to consolidate the Palace's media and communications division under one manager in view of the political and economic issues confronting her administration.

Discomfort

Bunye's retention as the President's spokesperson goes against the advice of El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde, her spiritual adviser.

In a phone interview, Neri admitted that he was not comfortable working at the DBM and had told the President that he did not want to stay too long there.

He declined to go into specifics but said the work at his current post was more tedious compared with that at the Neda, of which he was director general when he was named to take the place of the resigned Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

"Mas mabusisi ang trabaho sa DBM," he said.

But while admitting that he wanted to leave his post, Neri refused to say whether he had requested to be transferred back to the Neda.

"We are a good soldier; we will just let [the President] decide," he said.

He also said he had yet to hear from the Palace about the matter.

Reward

The Malacañang source pointed out that Andaya's experience as chair of the appropriations committee since 2001 made him well-versed in budgetary matters.

Observers said Andaya's supposed transfer from the legislative to the executive branch was a fitting reward for standing solidly behind Ms Arroyo in the failed attempt in the House to impeach her.

Andaya has broken from his peers in the Liberal Party led by Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who vigorously pushed for the President's impeachment.

Small group

Bunye and Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao are drawing up the executive order creating the PCG, which would replace the since abolished Office of the Communication Director.

Under Bunye's proposal, the PCG will have a committee of three to four members that will be led by himself and that will be responsible for mapping out policies and implementing Ms Arroyo's public relations strategy.

"This is the general direction the President wants—a small group that will meet regularly to tackle the various issues and guidelines related to communications," Bunye said.

He did not identify the committee members.

With his added responsibilities, Bunye has named his relative, Press Undersecretary for Operations Robert T. Rivera, "to supervise and manage" the Office of the Press Secretary during his absence, or whenever he is unable to act on official papers.

'He's good'

Bunye's increasing power of influence in Malacañang comes at a time when lawmakers have demanded his resignation over his handling of certain issues besieging the President, like the "Hello, Garci" tape scandal.

According to Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, Bunye's designation as media czar could be his "reward" for covering up the wiretapping scandal involving the alleged cheating that marked the 2004 presidential election.

"He's good. He's good with manufacturing CDs," Osmeña said of Bunye with a chuckle. "He should be rewarded for having successfully covered up the 'Garci' investigation. Under this administration, the more useful you are, like Garci (former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano), the more you will be rewarded."

Osmeña told reporters at a briefing that in every administration, a spokesperson had to communicate the president's message to the citizenry. But he pointed out that peripheral to this crucial role was the need to "control the news."

Suppressing what's 'not nice'

"In politics, in public service, one of the most important responsibilities of a public official is to communicate your vision, your message, to the entire citizenry. That's why you have a spokesman; that's why you have a Bunye," Osmeña said.

The senator said this role was easy to perform because Bunye had a staff who would prepare news clippings for his perusal prior to briefings.

"Peripheral to that is also the need of some people to control the news—in other words, being able to suppress what is not nice. Bunye is very good at doing the second," Osmeña said, adding:

"Imagine, he was not even investigated for coming out with the CDs ... This is his reward."

Flip-flopping

It was Bunye who presented to the media early in June two copies of the "Garci" tape—one fake and the other genuine, he said—supposedly to preempt an opposition plan to go public with the tapped conversations between the President and an election official believed to be Garcillano.

He has flip-flopped on his statements since then. *With reports from Michelle V. Remo and TJ Burgonio*

FVR to GMA: Cut term; my support incidental

From page A1

Peninsula Hotel where the former President gave his speech.

Ramos is a longtime proponent of the shift to a parliamentary form of government, but his advocacy was given fresh impetus after he was credited with saving the Arroyo administration from collapse in the wake of a mass resignation on July 8 of key Cabinet officials now known as the "Hyatt 10."

Ramos had suggested that Ms Arroyo make a "graceful exit" next year to make way for a parliamentary system of government.

A scheme earlier proposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., a staunch Ramos ally, calls for Ms Arroyo to step down in favor of a prime minister by 2007. The President's term expires in 2010.

De Venecia said Charter change could be a way to break the political gridlock threatening the entire country.

But a member of the Consultative Commission (Concom), which the President formed to propose amendments to the Constitution, wants Ms Arroyo to hold on to her post until 2010.

Former Biliran Rep. Gerry Espina proposed to the Concom committee on transitory provisions that Ms Arroyo and all incumbent officials be given automatic term extensions from 2007, when the new Constitution providing for a shift to a parliamentary-federal system is expected to take effect.

RAMOS: President Arroyo must herself reform

Manifesto

Other allies of Ms Arroyo also want her to remain in office until 2010.

Congressmen, governors and mayors, who belong to the pro-Arroyo coalition, signed an agreement yesterday hastening moves to revise the Charter and defuse the political turmoil. They said in their manifesto that Ms Arroyo's current term should be respected. *(See related story on Page A2).*

Last night, the 49-member Concom voted 32-7 to recommend the shift from the presidential-bicameral government to the parliamentary-unicameral system.

Most senators, including Ms Arroyo's allies, and the small opposition bloc in the House of Representatives are opposed to changing the Constitution, saying the proposal was a smokescreen to defuse the political crisis.

Ms Arroyo, who survived an impeachment attempt by her political opponents last month, has been embroiled in a crisis since early June over opposition claims that she cheated her way to victory in the 2004 polls and that her family received payoffs from operators of "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

Lack of alternatives

In his speech, Ramos qualified his support for Ms Arroyo, saying it is driven mainly by a lack of acceptable alternatives.

"My abiding concern has always been the national interest," he said.

Ramos also outlined several prerequisites which he believes are critical for the country to be able to move forward, including personal changes on Ms Arroyo's part.

"President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo must herself reform," he said, to the sound of more applause from the audience.

Extension of terms

Under the Espina proposal, the mid-term May 2007 election would not be held and Ms Arroyo would be allowed to serve out her term up to 2010, after which the full shift to the new system would be implemented.

The proposal amounts to a wholesale extension of the terms of office of the 23 senators, 235 members of the House of Representatives, and thousands of governors, vice governors, mayors, vice mayors, councilors and barangay officials.

The committee on transitory provisions has yet to vote on Espina's proposal but he said most Concom members were agreeable to the term extension.

Concom Chair Jose Abueva said all the senators whose terms will end in 2007 and in 2010 would become automatic members of the transition parliament along with all the incumbent members of the House of Representatives.

Parliamentary polls next year

He said the first election under the new Constitution would be in 2010 when all positions would conform to the parliamentary-federal system.

The federal republic with a parliamentary government model proposed by Abueva includes a President acting as head of state with largely ceremonial functions and a Prime Minister as strong head of government.

Asked how the proposal would be accepted by the people, Espina said they could still resort to impeachment or recall to remove any undesirable official.

He said Ms Arroyo could still be subject to impeachment next year.

Abueva had said there could be a plebiscite on the new Constitution as early as the middle of next year.

Joint declaration

De Venecia and other House leaders signed a joint declaration with the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), the umbrella organization of all local officials, calling for the immediate shift to a parliamentary system. *(Related story on Page A2.)*

Concom Secretary General Lito Monico Lorenzana said Concom officials witnessed the signing of the declaration after meeting with De Venecia and Ulap leaders in Manila Hotel yesterday.

Lorenzana said the Speaker and the local officials wanted the plebiscite held next year.

He said the Speaker and Ulap agreed to convene a constituent assembly, composed of senators and members of the House, to amend the Constitution.

"They are trying to work out a modus vivendi with the Senate and they are asking the local officials (to help them)," Lorenzana said.

The majority of senators object to a constituent assembly but are amenable to Charter change only through a constitutional convention composed of elected delegates.

Lorenzana said the Concom was set to vote yesterday on the committee reports calling for the lifting of the "restrictive" economic provisions such as the ban on foreign ownership of land, utilities and the media.

He said the committee on national territory also wanted the government to revive its claim on Sabah. *With a report from Reuters*

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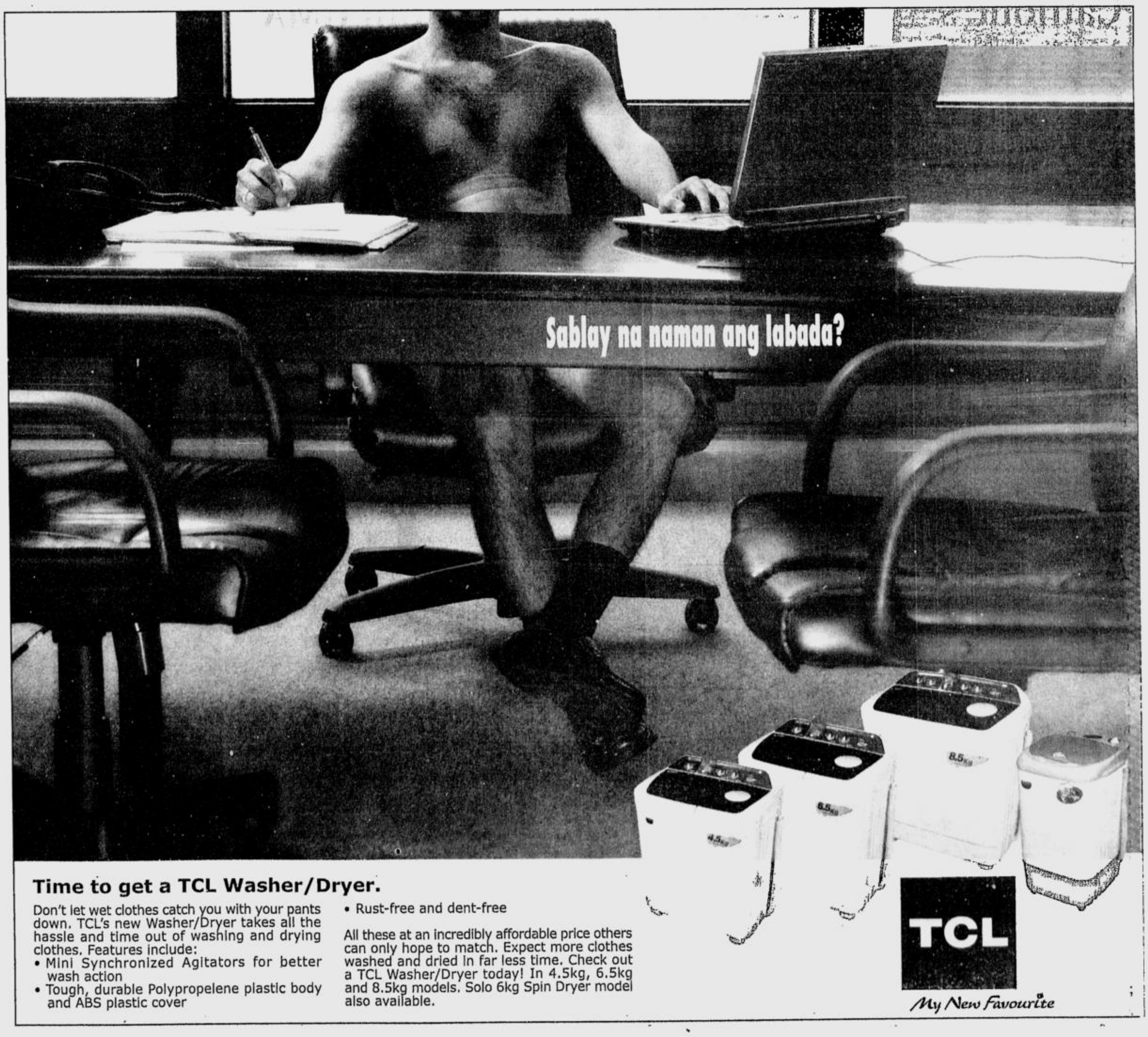

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My New Favourite

'Edsa-type' move to oust GMA likely to fail, says FVR

By Daxim L. Lucas
Business

ANY MOVE TO OUST President Macapagal-Arroyo through another "Edsa-type" protest will likely fail because of the absence of support from a cohesive military establishment, former President Fidel V. Ramos said yesterday.

In a speech before businessmen, he said the "involvement of significant members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police" in the present political debate was noticeably absent.

"[Regime change] will not happen from the mutiny of various disgruntled military elements in the Gringo Honasan and Oakwood [mutiny] styles," Ramos said.

Because it is unlikely for the military establishment to shift its wholesale support away from the Arroyo administration, the chances for violence increase if renegade units defect to the political opposition's cause piecemeal, he said.

"Any attempt of that nature might end up in shooting," Ramos warned. "So this, as much as possible, we must avoid."

In search of heroes, 40 artists form Dakila

From page A1

Recognizing that performers have a role beyond providing entertainment, artists, actors and musicians have formed a group that seeks to advocate social awareness and modern-day heroism among their audiences.

At a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, they expressed their commitment to using their art to uphold Filipino values and spurn the "evil" that engulfs the nation.

Positive change

"We know that no song, no poem, no novel, no film has ever stopped a tank. But as disciples of the creative act, we value the virtue of every art form in enriching the spirit of the Filipino citizen," they said in a manifesto of unity.

Performing artists could no longer afford to remain apathetic in the face of the political crisis, they said.

"Philippine society is in the midst of a significant upheaval and ... we are not exempted from the responsibility of helping contribute to positive change," they added.

Dakila now has some 40 members, mostly belonging to the performing arts, but others from different fields are welcome to join the club, Jimenez said.

The group was conceptualized a month ago when Jimenez, Meneses, De Veyra and Lazaro met to discuss how they could contribute to the movement against the imposition of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax law.

In the course of the discussion, however, the four decided to widen their cause and include other issues besetting Philippine society.

"We're not saying we're *dakila* (great). Dakila is aspirational. It's striving toward nobility. In our own little way, we (performers) can also do something to effect change in society," said De Veyra, an INQUIRER University Scholar in his senior year at UST.

In his music, for instance, he has begun tackling other subjects relevant to the current political turmoil, aside from the usual love angles, he said.

Some of the artists donated blood to the Philippine Red Cross in a bloodletting activity yesterday.

Who's who

Their logic was simple: *"Mas mabuti pang magbuwis ng dugo kaysa magkaroon ng mas malaking buwis* (Better to lose blood than pay higher wages)."

Jimenez, who is regularly seen on television sitcoms and independent films, was an activist as a student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. He is also a photographer and the vocalist of the rock band Live Tilapia.

Meneses' band Parokya ni Edgar is known for songs with catchy melodies and goofy lyrics. The band's bassist is also actively involved in spreading cancer awareness.

De Veyra has won awards for his poetry and essays. He also fronts the spoken word-jazz-rock band Radioactive Sago Project.

Lazaro, who has appeared in several critically acclaimed films, is also a veteran stage actor. He is currently touring the country with the play "Hiblang Abo."

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Metro mayors to set up freedom parks

By Tina G. Santos and Jocelyn R. Uy

SEVERAL METRO MANILA mayors agreed yesterday to try to find space for freedom parks in their own areas.

The agreement was reached during a meeting yesterday attended by Mayors Lito Atienza of Manila, Florencio Bernabe Jr. of Parañaque City, Jaime Fresnedi of Muntinlupa City, Rosendo Capco of Pateros, Sherwin Gatchalian of Valenzuela City and Marides Fernando of Marikina City. Mayors Enrico Echiverri of Caloocan City, Imelda Aguilar of Las Piñas City and Sigfrido Tinga of Taguig sent representatives.

The mayors said appropriate ordinances would be passed for this purpose. Atienza, who presided over the meeting, said the rights of demonstrators "will be more protected in areas officially designated as freedom parks. The city governments would exercise minimum control, perhaps just making sure two opposing groups do not use the venue at the same time."

Under Batas Pambansa 880, a permit is not required if the assembly is held in a freedom park or on private property. "There would be no reason for the city government to deny a permit as long as the rally is held at a freedom park," Atienza said.

Reacting to reports that rallyists would take over the freedom park near Malacañang, Atienza said the area had not been officially designated as a freedom park.

Manila offered Luneta Park, Plaza Miranda and Liwasang Bonifacio as venues for protest rallies.

Even as some mayors reportedly agreed to set up freedom parks, local executives in southern Metro Manila said their areas were too cramped. Bernabe said Parañaque had many subdivisions. But if required by law, he said the city could locate the park in Barangay Don Bosco. Las Piñas Vice Mayor Luis Bustamante said it would also be difficult for them to find space because subdivisions also took up most of their space.

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad said even if they had a freedom park, rallyists would still prefer Manila or Makati. But if they had to, they would find a place for the park, he added.

Fresnedi said his councilors would pass an ordinance for the construction of a freedom park.

Barangay Tunasan and a space near the New Bilibid Prisons were suggested as sites by some council members.

LOOK MA, NO HELMETS
Two motorcycle policemen without any helmets on were on patrol duty when a PDI lensman ran into them along Zapote Street, Makati City. They had no safety headgear "because we are policemen," the pair told our curious photographer.
BOY CABRIDO

Montalban dump closure looms

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT of Rodriguez, Rizal is planning to close down the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility next week because of rising operational costs triggered by high gasoline prices.

The facility gets some 1,500 tons of garbage every day from nine cities and towns in Metro Manila.

"We can no longer sustain our operations," Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Saying the facility would be closed Wednesday, Cuerpo added, "We would rather stop operations than continue with an insufficient budget and risk accidents."

Cuerpo and the private operator of the facility had proposed a 30-percent increase in the rates charged per ton of garbage. But the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said it could not afford the proposed new rate. Cuerpo suggested that the MMDA ask President Macapagal-Arroyo for a bigger budget.

Controlled dumps are also operating in Payatas, Quezon City and Tanza, Navotas, servicing some areas in Metro Manila. But the facilities would close by the end of the year. Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act requires all open dumps to be closed by next year and that each local government unit shall provide its own landfill.

MMDA deputy chair Cesar Lacuna said they would begin exploring other options. He said Cuerpo sought an increase in the tipping fee of P600 the MMDA paid Rodriguez for every metric ton of trash. But Lacuna said the agency had to look for other sources to pay for the additional fees. "The situation has to be evaluated. Besides, our problem is where to get the money. We may have to ask the the national government for help just in case," he said, adding that the MMDA would also begin looking for alternative dumps.

'Tuli' is best digital film

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE AWARDS NIGHT FOR the 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival held Wednesday night at the Aliw Theater at the CCP Complex on Roxas Boulevard was just like any other show biz event.

The evening had its fair share of lip-synching pop stars and rambling speeches.

But it was a special night for Filipino director Auraeus Solito whose entry, "Tuli," was cited as Best Filipino Digital Film. Solito accepted the trophy and P1.5 million prize with Vincent del Rosario, executive vice president of Viva Entertainment.

Earlier, Solito complained that his producer Viva Films "disemboweled" and reedited his entry after the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board gave it an X rating. Solito was also named Best Digital Director.

Hours before the ceremony, the INQUIRER received a text message naming the top three winners in the local digital film section, which proved to be accurate: Briccio Santos' "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre," was third; Mes de Guzman's "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong," second; and Solito's "Tuli," the top awardee. Apart from trophies, Santos received P750,000 and De Guzman P1,000,000 in prize money.

De Guzman said: "This (money) will buy a lot of raincoats for Igorot children." His film chronicles how Igorot children walk through circuitous mountain trails to go to school. Festival director Tikoy Aguiluz reminded the audience that the event aimed "to honor filmmakers from all over the world."

International winners included: Best International Documentary, Hanna Polak and Andrzej Celinski's "Children of Leningradsky"; Best Actor International, Krystyna Feldman, "My Nikifor," Poland (an actress in a male role); Best Actress International, Fatoumata Coulibaly, "Moolaadé," Senegal; Grand Jury Prize (second Best Picture), Mohamed Asli's "In Casablanca, Angels Don't Fly," Morocco; and the Lino Brocka Award (grand prize), Im Sang-soo's "The President's Last Bang," South Korea. Special awards were given to avant-garde Hong Kong filmmaker Yon Fa, glamorous Hong Kong actress Teresa Cheung and Pusan International Film Festival director Kim Dong-ho of South Korea.

Other awardees were: Best Filipino Short Film, John Torres' "Salat"; Ishmael Bernal Award for Best Filipino Short Filmmaker, Torres; Best Screenplay in the Digital section, Santos and Jorge Arado, "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre"; Best Actor, Alex "Bo" Vicencio, "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre"; and Best Actress, Ana Capri, "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre."

The film festival is ongoing in selected Metro Manila theaters until Oct. 25.

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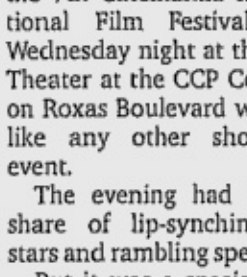

HER SEEMINGLY uncaring attitude toward her "daughter" alerted barangay officials, leading to the rescue of an 18-month-old baby allegedly abducted in Hulong Duhat, Malabon City last week. Baby Pascual was reunited with her mother Jessica yesterday afternoon after barangay officials of Balut, Tondo turned the child over to the police. Kidnap suspect Grace Morales was brought to the police station for questioning after barangay officials suspected she could not be the mother of the child. Police said the baby, whose description matched that of a child who was reported missing last week, could have been snatched and later sold to a child trafficking syndicate. Investigators are looking into the possibility that Morales could be working with a group which abducts minors who are later sold to a syndicate in the business of providing children to a third party for a fee. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Susan Andaya, 48

FASHION designer and businesswoman Susan Andaya, 48, died on Oct. 19 of heart failure. She is survived by her children Ellen, Tricia and Armin; parents Elvira and Emiliano; sisters Aba and Lit, Apieh and Yoyet; and brother Jeff. Her body lies in state at the Sta. Cecilia Chapel 2, Lawaan St., Ceris 2, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna. Interment will take place today after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Crematory Services in Guadalupe, Makati City.

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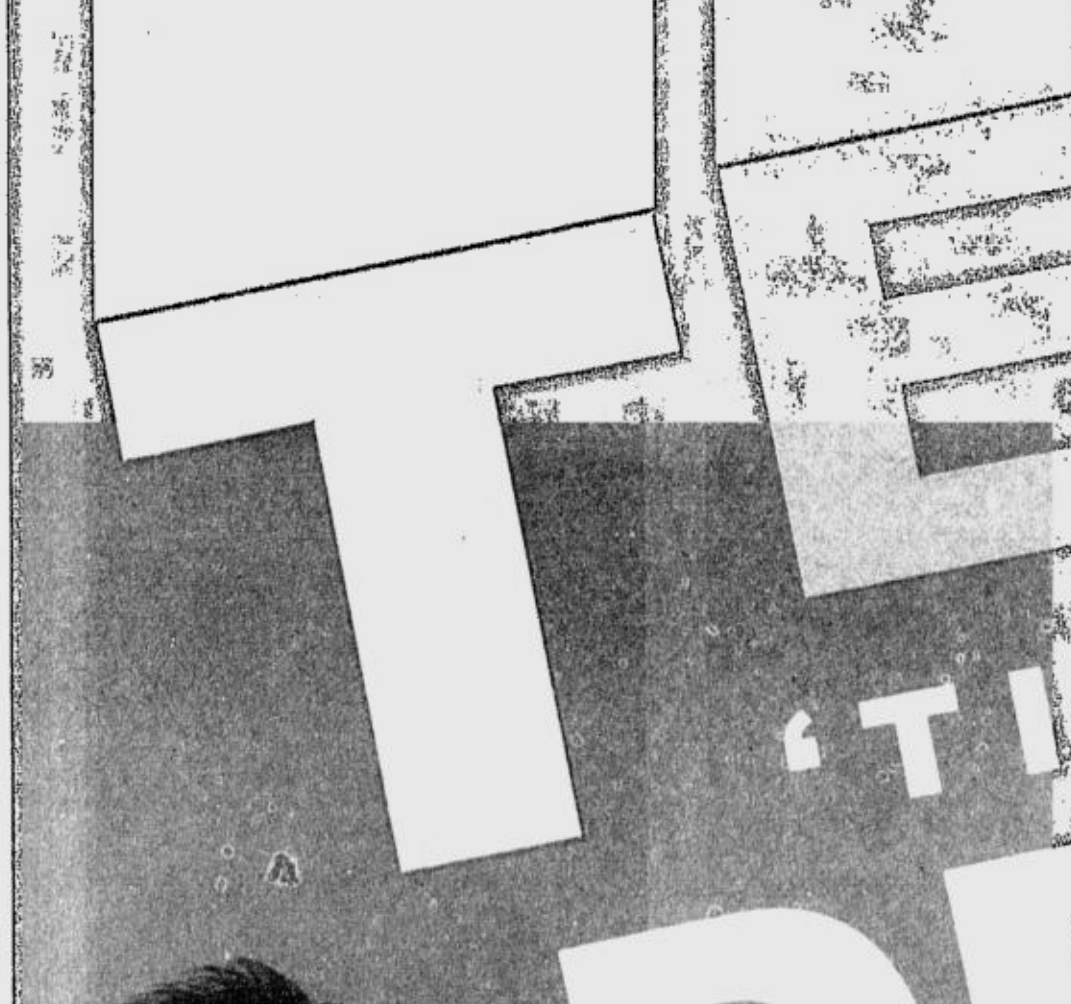

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Only 2 La Salle players ineligible, says DepEd

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONfirmed yesterday that only two students from De La Salle have submitted false documents.

Denying reports (not from INQUIRER) that La Salle fielded three ineligible players in its 2004 championship run, the DepEd stressed that only two out of the six Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR) sent by La Salle for verification were fake.

Dr. Nelia Benito, head of the National Educational Testing and Research Center, did not identify the students. La Salle also declined to name them, but published reports have tagged them as center Mark Benitez and point guard Tim Gatchalian.

Sources said Gatchalian appeared before La Salle's investigative panel yesterday afternoon to air his side on the controversy.

Benitez and his father Mesh faced the four-man committee last Tuesday and an INQUIRER source said they told the panel that a liaison officer and a former member of the coaching staff member helped them secure their eligibility papers.

Benito said the two questioned documents have no alpha-numeric security codes and watermarked security logos. She also noted that her signatures were scanned digitally.

The DepEd official also clarified reports that Benitez was ineligible to take the second PEPTCR.

She said Benitez failed the March 2002 test, but declined to confirm if Benitez passed in his second try in November 2002. *With a report from Jasmine W. Payo*

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Vietnam still a major SEA Games contender

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SOUTHEAST Asian Games defending champion Vietnam has set a target of from 60 to 100 gold medals to finish among the top three nations when the biennial sportsfest returns to the Philippines next month.

This goal will be carried out by 528 entries submitted by Vietnam Olympic Committee vice chair Nguyen Hong Minh to Filipino organizers recently.

"These 528 athletes are the best ones we have chosen after two years of training and filling vacancies from 25 percent of the athletes who played in the last games," Minh was quoted as saying on the VOC website.

Vietnam, which outshone traditional heavyweights Thailand and Indonesia in its inaugural hosting of the event two years ago, will compete in 34 of 41 sports scheduled during the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 competition.

The Philippines is hoping to finally capture its first overall title behind a thousand athletes who will see action in all of the 441 events to be disputed.

But the Philippine Olympic Committee refused to give an official gold medal prediction along with the Philippine Sports Commission. Some officials claimed the Filipinos are good for at least 170 gold medals, while others forecast a 109 golden haul.

In the last SEA Games, the Vietnamese captured 158 gold medals in 32 sporting events.

Thailand finished second with 97 golds followed by Indonesia (91), the Philippines (48) and Malaysia (44).

Vietnam, according to the Hanoi-based website, replaced most of its athletes in karatedo, track and field, swimming, pencak silat and shooting.

According to Minh, Vietnam has top four competitors in many key events such as martial arts events, chess, shooting, rowing, wrestling, bodybuilding, sepak takraw, sport aerobics and women's football.

FEU's best and brightest

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THROUGH THE years, Far Eastern University has produced many gritty athletes who made their presence felt in the local, regional and international sporting scene between 1940-1960.

Just before and immediately after the Pacific War, FEU tennis players Felicisimo Ampon, Cesar Carmona and Raymundo Deyro dominated the Asian Zone Davis Cup series. Ditto with boxing, then a virtual FEU monopoly; and baseball, where the Morayta Green Sox won many MBBL, UAAP and national titles under coaches Capt. Tony Paralejas and, much earlier, Joe Cagape. FEU was also tops in softball, weightlifting, football, men's and women's volleyball, swimming, gymnastics, even wrestling.

In concluding this series on "FEU's best and brightest," I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to those school alumni and students who congratulated me for writing about their outstanding athletes. But I am sorry if I failed to mention some other worthy Tamaraws, especially those who excelled during the pre-war years.

At any rate, here are some more FEU athletes who did the country proud. Aside from Gerry Cruz, and Herminio Astorga, other FEU players who became household names in basketball were Engracio Arazas, Manuel Jocson, Romy and Paquito Diaz, Joselino and Joselito Roa, Arturo Valenzona, Danny Gavieres and, most recently, former PBA MVP Johnny Abarrientos and Vic Pablo.

Boxing, under legendary coach Celestino "Aling" Enriquez, produced not only 1964 Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Anthony Villanueva, but also contributed Celedonio Espinosa, Manfredo Alipala, Rodolfo Arpon, Arnulfo Torrevillas, the fabulous Fortaleza brothers—Renato (1972 Munich Olympics), Reynaldo (1976 Montreal Olympics) and Ricardo (1972 Munich Games and lone gold medalist for the Philippines in the 1970 Bangkok Asiad)—and Roberto Jalnaiz, who won the lone boxing gold for the country in the 1990 Asiad in Beijing.

Other FEU standouts were long jump veteran Elma Muros-Posadas (bronze medal winner, 1990 Beijing and 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games; RP entry in the 1984 Los Angeles and 1996 Atlanta Olympics), weightlifter Salvador del Rosario (silver medal, 1970 Bangkok Asiad; 1968 Mexico, 1972 Munich and 1976 Montreal Olympics) and swimmers Gertudes Lozada (an Asiad veteran and RP bet in the 1956 Melbourne Games), Corazon Lozada and sister Teresita, Victoria Cagayat, Victoria Cullen, Agapito "Pete" Lozada (an Asian Games veteran and RP entry in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics) and Ulpiano Bubol (another Asiad and 1954 Melbourne Olympics veteran).

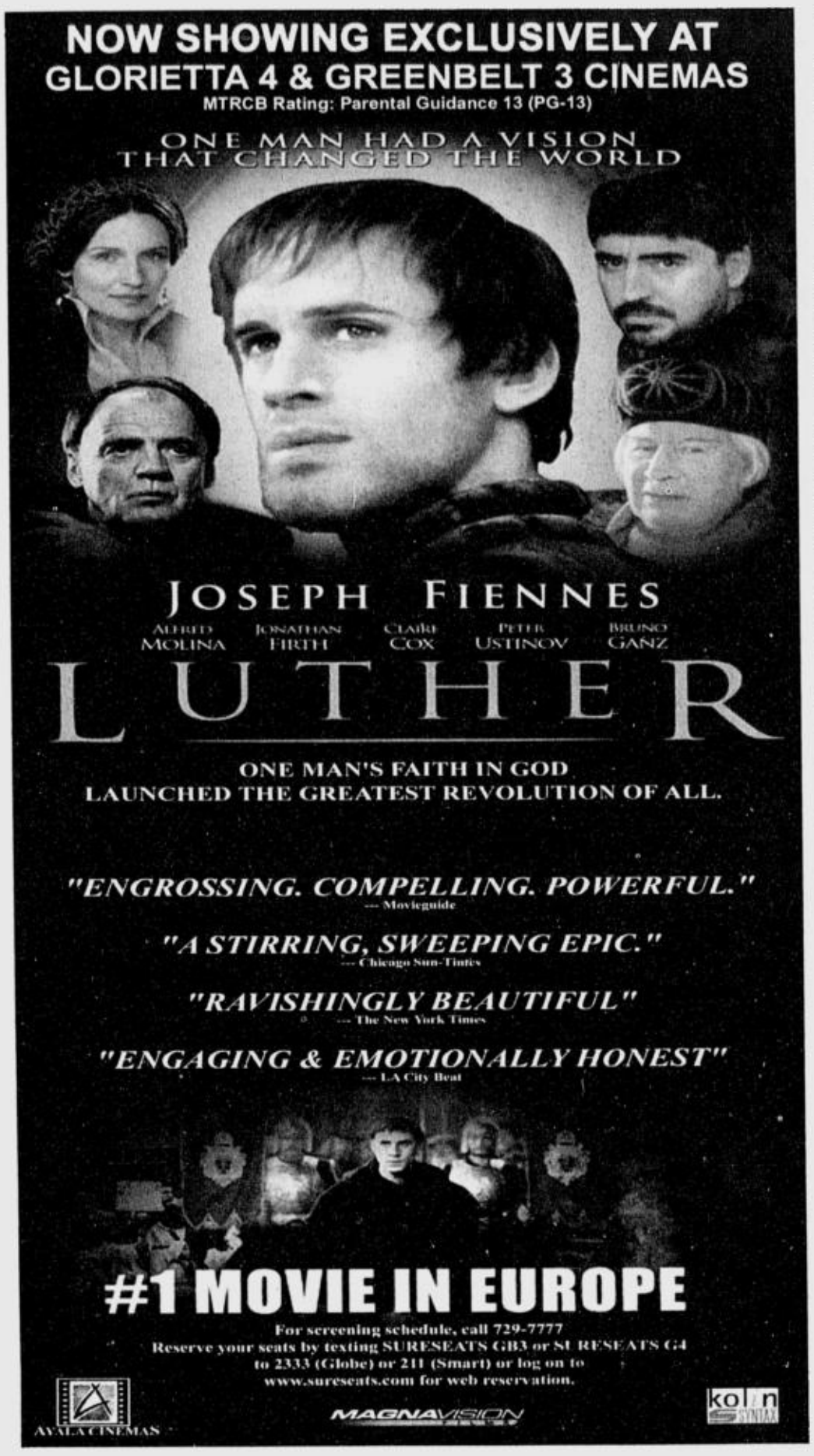
Cyclist Cornelio Padilla Jr., now a practicing lawyer, saw action in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, sprinter Enrique Bautista also represented the Philippines in the 1960 Rome Olympics along with the irrepressible Mona Sulaiman, who also competed in the 1964 Tokyo and 1968 Mexico Olympics.

In the late 1950s and until 1960s, swimming, under coach Fedy Cruz, flourished and produced not only Haydee Coloso-Espino and the famous Lozada clan, but also Nimfa Lim, Hedy Garcia, Rosalina and Herminia Abreu, Rebecca Miranda, Susan Papa, Ma. Luz Arzaga, swimathon "Big 4" of women's swimming composed of national record breakers Dolores Alforte, who later became the school's women's swim team coach; Catalina Ybarlozada, Paz Ochoa and Angelita Fermin, with Lourdes Reyes as team manager.

With former Manila Times sports editor Ricky Llanos as coach, football was another FEU domain of that bygone era. Most of the players were recruited from Western Visayas among them Baltazar Dimasuay from Central Philippine University, George Aldeguer, Orlando Plagata, Vicente Echaves from La Paz, Iloilo; and Liberato Mosquera and Cesar Brillantes from Barotac Viejo.

In the 1960s, the school won several softball UAAP and national championships behind the booming bats and sterling performance of veteran internationalists Julita Tayo, Patricia Sta. Maria, Salome Virgula, Josefina Cruz, Aida Songco, Rufina Aguila, Leonor Wedinco. Their coach was Frank Burcelis, a multiawarded decathlon athlete.

Needless to say, FEU's tremendous contribution to sports would not have been possible without the all-out support of war hero Nicanor "Noring" Reyes and US-educated Alfredo "Ding" Reyes, sons of school founder Dr. Nicanor Reyes. Noring eventually became chair of the FEU board of trustees while Ding served as vice president and PE director assisted by Prof. Enrique "Ike" Joaquin, Joey Loberiza, Rizalino Juliano and physical director Jose P. Rocha.



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Leyte
Municipality of Matalom

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Matalom has availed a loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation/ Land Bank of the Philippines through LGU Support Credit Program (SCP).

The Local Government Unit of Matalom, Leyte through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	:	Construction for the Development & Expansion of Municipal Waterworks System
Location	:	Matalom, Leyte
Brief Description	:	Construction of Spring Box & Transmission Pipelines
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	P 9,575,610.33
Contract Duration		180 Calendar Days

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Eligibility Forms and Bidding Documents	October 27- November 24, 2005
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 14, 2005 2:00 P.M. at SB Session Hall
3. Receipt and Opening of bids	November 25, 2005 10:00 A.M. at SB Session Hall

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check	One Percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a Half Percent (1½)
3. Surety Bond (GSIS)	Two and a Half Percent (2½)

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents to Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 12,000.00 to the Cashier of LGU- Matalom

The Local Government of Matalom, Leyte assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ANASTACIO C. POL
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 21 & 27, 2005)

Manny Pacquiao's PR force field

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

A HANDSHAKE WITH GMA, rehearsed to perfection at Malacañang's Heroes' Hall.

A photo with House Speaker Jose de Venecia at the podium that serves as his national perch.

A whisper into Senate President Franklin Drilon's ear to underscore intimacy with a national hero.

But even before political flaks and public relations operatives can concoct such events with Manny Pacquiao—the Pacman's PR force field has all been spent.

By Hizzoner, Lito Atienza—mayor of Manila, consummate politician and PR man all morphed into a single creature.

Give it to Atienza who started out as then Mayor Bagatsing's media man to come out ahead in the game of PR one-upmanship.

Duh.

It is not exactly rocket science to know that Manny, exalted like a demigod by Pinoys, throws off an aura. So make the favorite son of General Santos City an adopted son of Manila.

Then elevate the motorcade with Manny into a political art. In the runup for a national office someday, it won't hurt to be part of Pacman's entourage as he waves to Manilans all the way to the bank.

Manny himself ensures that Atienza enjoys first dibs at being flash-frozen into the sports pages and, by design, into countrywide prominence.

The Pacman is well aware that the road to Malacañang and other prominent places runs through Maynilad. Thus, before plunging into a manic mix of celebrations and controlled chaos in his new-found constellation, Manny injects himself with a healthy dose of adrenalin.

There is no better way to achieve that high than to ride with the mayor at the head of a motorcade.

We have a sneaking feeling that when Manny hits town from a foreign war with either a genuine protagonist or a certifiable patsy, the most impressive architectural landmark in his mind is the City Hall clock tower.

It is a landmark that ticks in Manny's subconscious and reminds the boxing superstar it is time to replace anxiety with the adrenalin from the crowd's cheers.

It is a cue for Mayor Atienza, who understands PR to the bone, to ride on Manny's coattails as usual.

Duh!

You PR types don't have to be rocket scientists to wait for the mayor to beat you to the punch again.

There is more Pacquiao to be tapped out there.

Bobby Pacquiao.

TNT seeks No. 4 vs Coke

COACH JOEL BANAL IS worried about Talk 'N Text's stamina more than anything else.

The Phone Pals, hardly recovered from their energy-sapping win over the Sta. Lucia Realtors the other day, plunge into action against the Coca-Cola Tigers this afternoon in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We need to have fresh legs, especially the big guys," said Banal of his 4:40 p.m. date with the Tigers.

"I hope we could manage our energy level because that win has somehow tired us out," added Banal of the Phone Pals who posted their third straight win after their 87-80 triumph over the Realtors.

Damien Cantrell, Mark Telan and Asi Taulava worked double time to finish in double-double figures on points and rebounds while Donbel Belano and Jimmy Alapag also pushed themselves to the limit.

"But as long as we can make stops, grab rebounds and run, I guess we have better chances of survival," said Banal.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk N Text
7:25 p.m.—Alaska vs Air21
GAME TOMORROW
(Cagayan de Oro City)
4:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Barangay Ginebra

Meanwhile, Alaska will try to use its recent conquest of Barangay Ginebra as a springboard to squeeze out of a four-way tie in the middle of the standings.

And the Aces, who blasted the Gin Kings by 30 points, will aim to do that against the Air21 Express in the other game at 7:25 p.m.

"They're a high-energy team," said Alaska coach Tim Cone of the Express. "If you don't match their stamina, they'll leave you behind."

But Cone expressed confidence against the Express, noting that the Aces have a deeper pool of talent. "We're pretty deep even without Mike (Cortez) and it's hard to match up with our bench." Cortez has MCL on his right knee, which could take at least two weeks to heal.

Coach Dolreich "Bo" Perasol and the Express are coming from back-to-back losses that put them in a tie with the Tigers at 1-2.

Hungry for a win, the Tigers yielded an out-of-town game to the Realtors last week in Tubod, Lanao Del Norte. Their only win thus far was a 79-77 squeaker over the San Miguel Beermen.
June Navarro

Gomez stuns Reyes

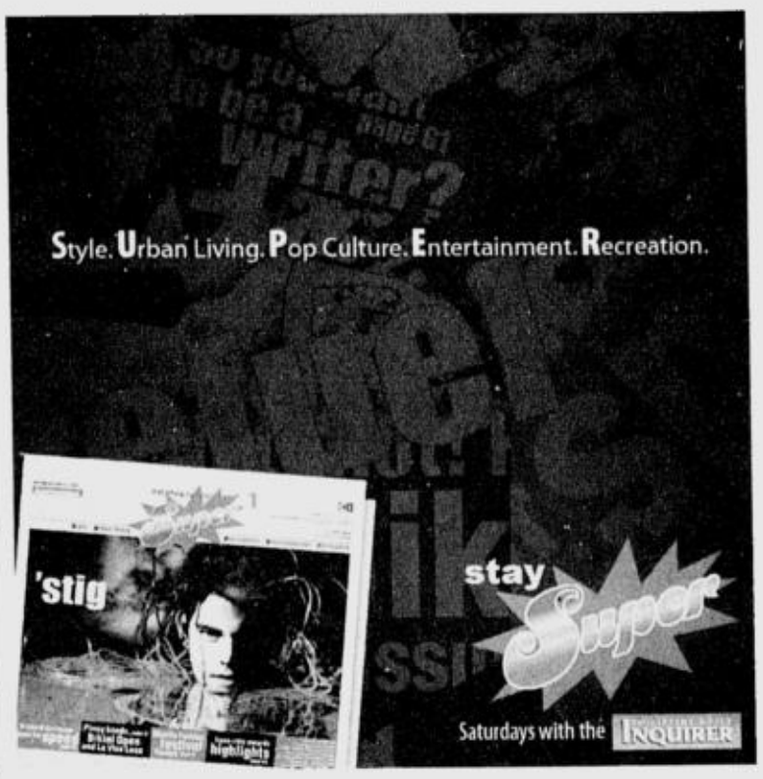
ROBERTO Gomez stunned Efren "Bata" Reyes, 9-8, in the Philippine 9-Ball Open Wednesday night at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall. The youthful cue-artist, who struggled to qualify in the main draw, took the last three racks to pull off the king-size upset. With his breaks giving him more trouble than opportunity, Gomez trailed 2-4, 3-5, 4-6 and 6-8 before his sweeping finish. Francisco "Django" Bustamante toppled Victor Arpilleda, 9-7, while Alex Pagulayan bested Fidel Punzalan, 9-5.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

TENNIS: ATP Masters Madrid; 8:30 p.m.; STAR Sports – Action moves on to the quarterfinals

BASKETBALL: NBA Pre-Season Games – Nuggets vs Lakers; 10:30 a.m.; Solar Sports – Denver tangles with LA in this tune-up match.



SPORTSWATCH

Northwoods hosting 3 tilts

THE ROYAL Northwoods Golf Club in San Rafael, Bulacan, is being spruced up for three big tournaments next month, including the fifth Ka Eliong Philippine inter-town golf tournament on Nov.25-26. The event, staged to raise funds for the Ka Eliong Foundation, is expected to lure teams from Manila, Pampanga and nearby provinces. Also on tap is the second Civic-Volvo Invitational on Nov. 5 while the 11th Gov. Eduardo Joson Memorial golf tournament will be played on Nov. 18. For details, contact Aubrey Cruz at (02) 440-6044/443-1656 and 0917-5421866 or e-mail info@royalnorthwoods.com or visit www.royalnorthwoods.com.

National Drag Racing

A CASH purse of P50,000 awaits the overall PRO class champion in the four-leg 2005 PCSO National Drag Racing Championship series kicking off Oct. 29 at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. The overall champion with the most number of points at the end of the series regardless of category will be an automatic contender for the AAP Drag Racing Driver of the Year and the Golden Wheel Award this January. Contact BRC Manager Sherwin Mojica or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

Robinson's Partners Cup

THE ROBINSON'S Land Corp. is staging the second Partners Cup invitational badminton tournament tomorrow featuring RLC executives, employees and its business partners at the Asunclon Badminton Center in San Juan. Organizers said 190 players have confirmed their participation. The tournament will also feature actor Richard Gomez, actress Glydel Mercado, sportscaster Chiqui Roa and RLC executive Frederick Go in the celebrity matchup.

Daungan dartfest 7th leg

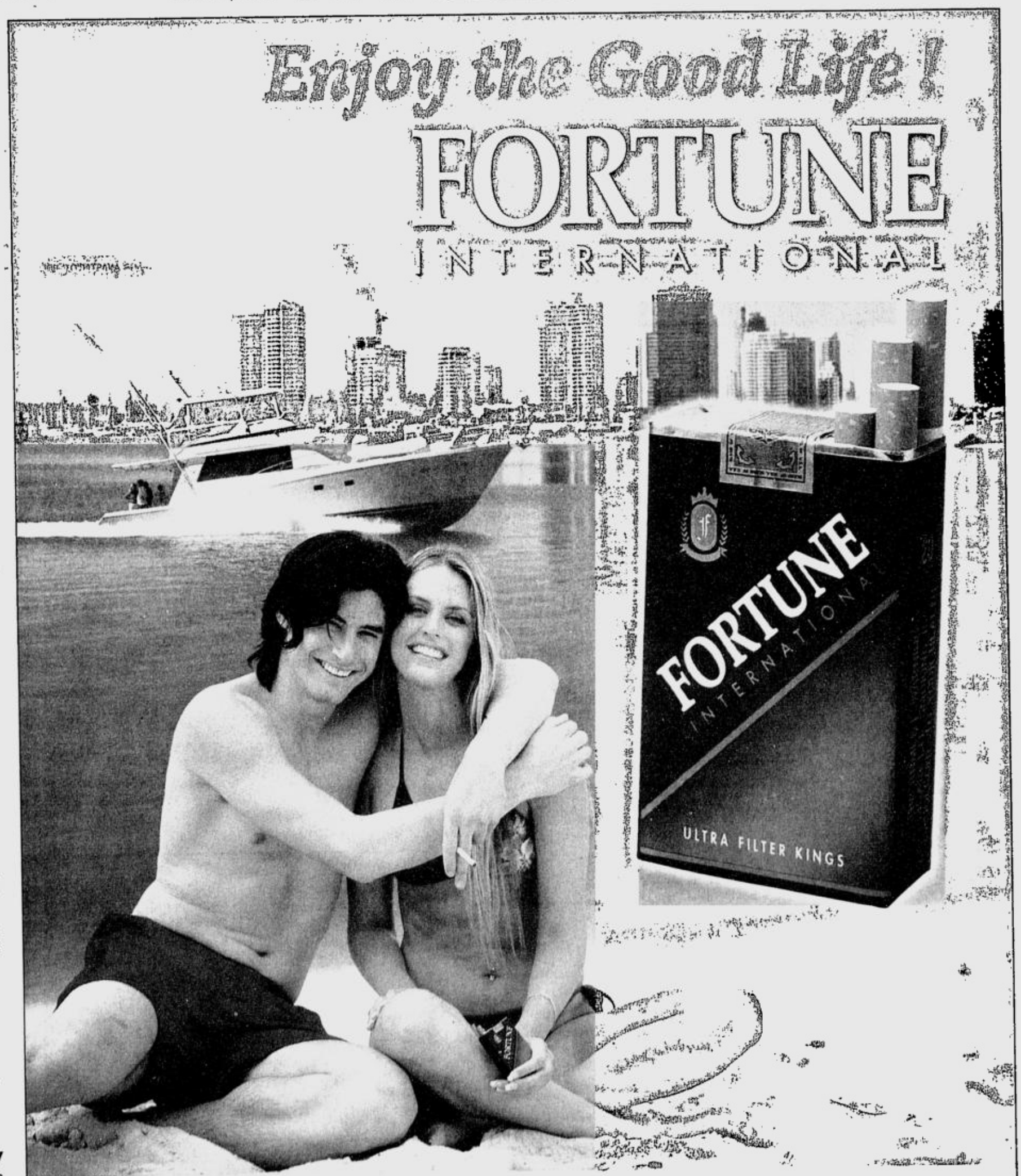
PRIZES worth P12,000 will be up for grabs when the Daungan Darts Club holds the 7th leg of its monthly series today, at the Daungan Restaurant on Madre Ignacia St. in Quezon City. The tournament is one of several activities marking the 31st anniversary of the Daungan Restaurant. The darts tournament starts at 8:30 p.m. Entry fee is P130. Registration begins at 7:30 p.m.

Big Event Part II at SJC

THE EXCLUSIVE duel among cockfighting heavyweights will be featured anew at San Juan Coliseum on Oct. 26 and 29 via the Big Event Part II 8-stag derby. The first Big Event 8-stag derby won by Bebot Roxas of Tarlac was also staged at San Juan Coliseum simultaneous with its grand opening last Sept. 13 and 15. SJC is now fully air-conditioned with a bigger seating capacity of 3,000. Entries include Boy Jiao, Jun Santiago and Gov. Ito Ynares of the National Cockers Association. Also in the list are Manny Pacquiao, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Patrick Antonio, Gerry Ramos, Boy de Roca, two-time world champ William Go, Dicky Lim, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, Jun Topacio, Reps. Butch Pichay and Jing Paras Roxas Brothers, Eric dela Rosa, Ramon Mancenares, Jet Fernando, Pampanga Group, Pol Estrellado, Nitoy Nasser, ASF Listana Group, Boy Royo, Rod Barro and Bong Villanueva. For details, contact 725 -5665, 7255369 and 7277086 (look for Ariel).

PCCA derby at Pasay today

Another big crowd is expected today at Pasay City Cockpit as the fourth and final leg of Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-stag derby series gets going at 6 p.m. The 64-fight program will be sponsored anew by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Previous leg winners were Gemini of Boy Layag, RAV 4 of Dodie Villarubio, RPCD Farm of Bobby Doromal, San Juan Coliseum of R. Pineda and Seawin entry. The battle for PCCA Stagfighter of the Year award is so close that at least ten participants are in title contention, said pit manager Eric dela Rosa. For details, contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750. Meanwhile, Muroy Dolorico will host a bigtime 4-stag derby on Oct. 28 with at least 35 entries. On Nov. 4 is the "Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby."



Astros land in World

First appearance after 44 years

ST. LOUIS—ROY OSWALT TOSSED seven brilliant innings to lead the Astros to a 5-1 Game Six victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday, handing Houston the National League title and a first World Series appearance.

The Astros, who were one strike away from clinching the pennant at home Monday, rebounded from the crushing loss with a dominating performance to take the best-of-seven championship series 4-2 and become the first Texan team to host a World Series game.

Houston will now meet the Chicago White Sox in Game One of the Fall Classic at US Cellular Field Saturday.

"It's indescribable, I've waited so long for this to happen," said Craig Biggio, who has spent his entire 18-year career in an Astros uniform.

"A lot of great players have never got a chance to go to the World Series and I was hoping I wouldn't be one them.

"I'm not greedy, I'm not selfish I just wanted to get to a World Series one time.

"We never gave up, we kept battling.

"I know we've got five million people in Houston who are pretty pumped up."

The victory ended 44 years of frustration and near misses for the Astros and their fans.

Until Wednesday, the Astros had gone 0-5 in games in which they had a chance to win the NLCS, including Monday's contest when they were leading 4-2 with two-out in the ninth when Albert Pujols smacked a three-run homer to force Game Six.

For the second consecutive year the Astros returned to Busch Stadium holding a 3-2 series lead, but this time would not be denied.

Oswalt, a 20-game winner during the regular season, sparkled again, allowing just one run on three hits while striking out six with a walk.

"I love the pressure, I love it when it counts," said Oswalt, who was named series MVP.

"We came in here knowing they had to catch us and knew the game we had to play."

"No one gave up on us.

"We believed in ourselves, I think halfway through this season we got it going and nobody looked back." *Reuters*

THE ASTROS pile up in Game Six of the Na... took the series, 4-2, t...

Pinoys relive raci...

THE MOMENT RENAN PONCE Morales, Princess Erica Esguerra, Vincent Tempongko, John Marcelo and Christina delos Santos stepped inside the cramped function room inside the Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. office in Makati City, one feels a sense of connection, of shared experiences, of oneness.

That "oneness" goes up several notches when they talked about their experiences in the recent Marlboro Red Racing School held in Varano, Italy. They agreed that the week-long sojourn was beyond their wildest dreams.

"You have to experience it to believe it," said Delos Santos, a product manager of Standard Chartered Bank, referring to their F1 experience where they rode with an F1 driver at break-neck speed.

Esguerra, motorcycle enthusiast, said "It was a dream come true." Marcelo compiled 700 pictures to relive their experiences. Morales, a seasoned rider, won three medals in side events.

Marlboro brand manager Jasper Evangelista accompanied the group.

Philip Morris Phils. Manufacturing Inc. managing director Chris Nelson said the Marlboro Red Racing School is an opportunity for Filipinos to be a part of something very special.

Guidicelli raps Clerk of Course

KARTING CHAMPION MATTEO Guidicelli has threatened to never again race in the Philippines if the competition is not conducted "in a fair and safe manner."

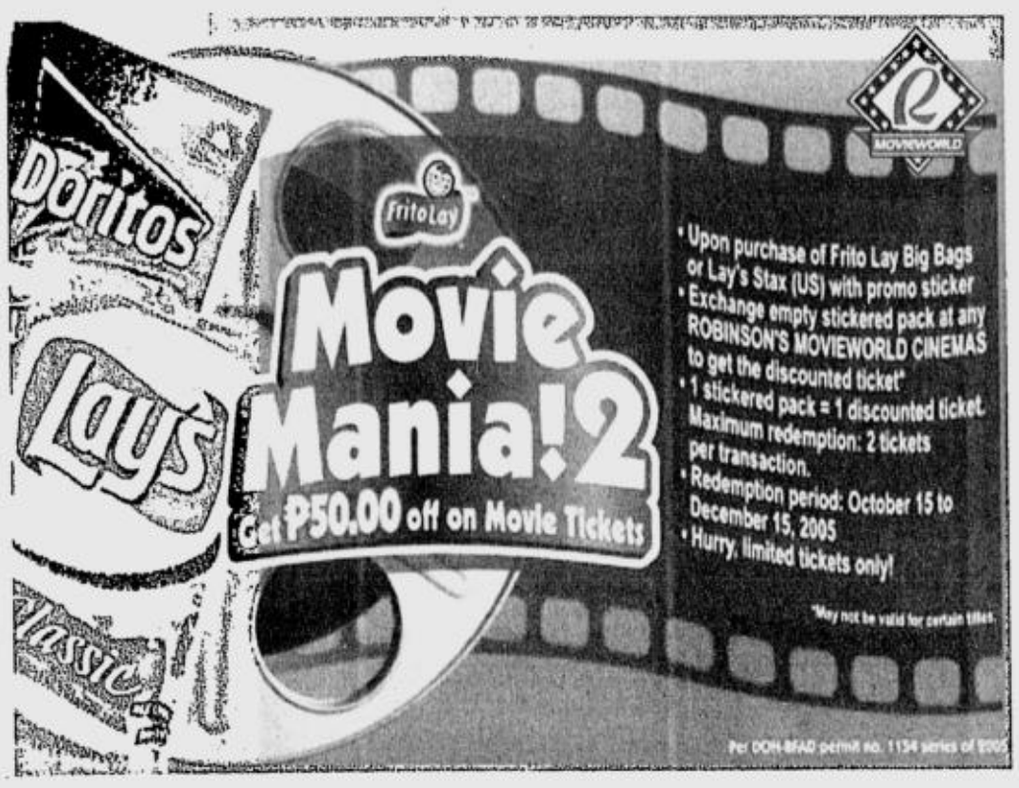
The 15-year-old said he and his team did not get a fair shake from the Clerk of Course during the final heat of the 2005 Shell Super Kart Series recently and this cost him the Karter of the Year title.

Michelle Bumgarner won the Karter of the Year trophy by overhauling a 12-point deficit on the final day of action.

"I am not interested in the trophy anymore," Guidicelli, accompanied by his publicity team, yesterday told a group of mediamen. "I just want to stand up and fight for what is right." *Musong R. Castillo*

Wack Wack wins

WACK WACK DREW A BIG ROUND from Stephanie Yu and posted a 19-point win in Group 1 even as Royal Northwoods came from behind to salvage Group 2 in the 3rd Asian Ladies Team championship at the Camp John Hay Golf Club which ended here yesterday. Yu delivered 51 points that formed the bulk of her team's 142 for the day that gave them a 54-hole total of 409. Bing Liboro made 47 while Liza Lopez tallied 44 that compensated for the 33 of Vicky Farrales. Carmelette Villaroman of defending champion Manila Southwoods-Masters settled for the individual crown. Villaroman scored 49 to beat junior golfer Cyna Rodriguez of Riviera by three Southwoods-Masters placed second behind Wack Wack at 390.



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6 (GOLD SDDS) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
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2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) LORD OF WAR
4 (DTS) PERFECT CATCH

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2 DUBAI
3 (DOLBY) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
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4 DUBAI
5 LAND OF THE DEAD

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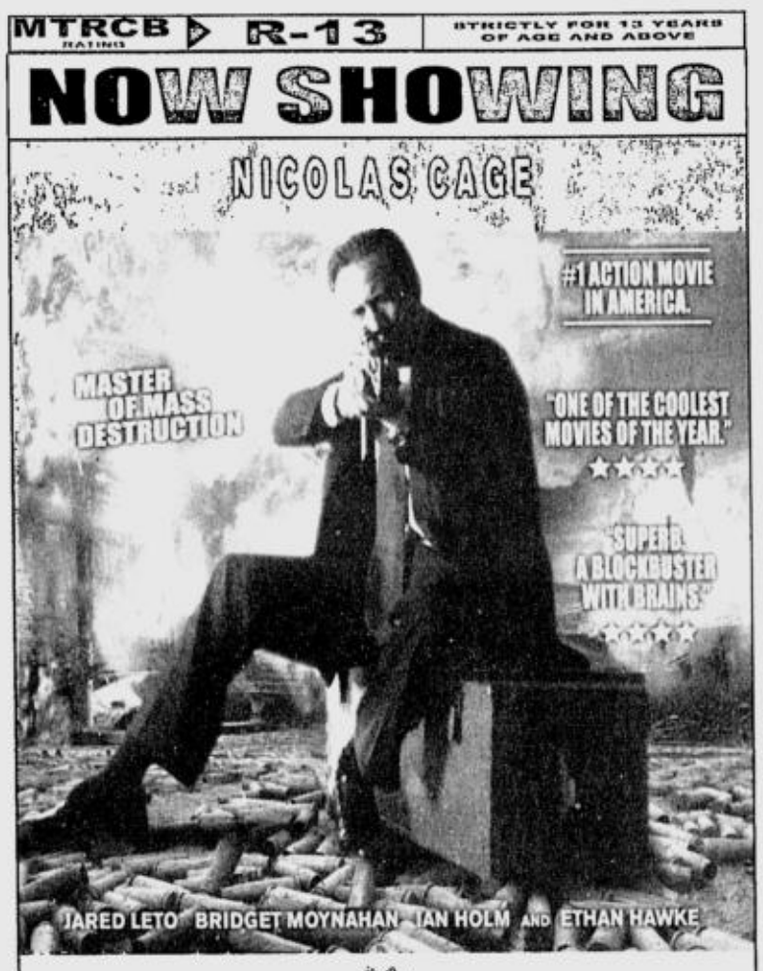

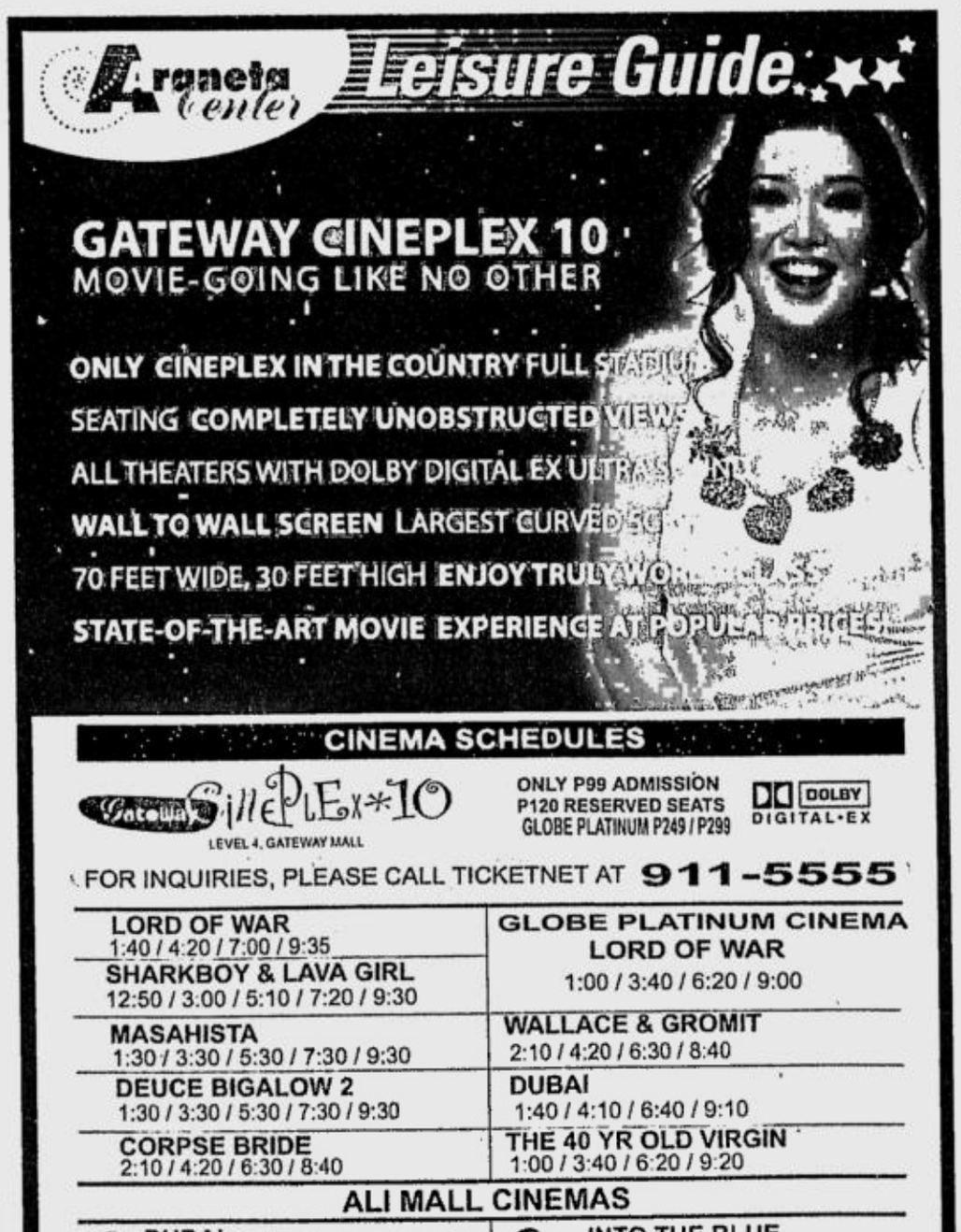

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LORD OF WAR 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:35	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA LORD OF WAR 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	
MASAHISTA 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	WALLACE & GROMIT 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
CORPSE BRIDE 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	4 INTO THE BLUE 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
2 LORD OF WAR 11:55 / 2:45 / 5:35 / 8:25	5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
3 SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:15 R3 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

Oct 21 Friday	COCA COLA vs TALK N TEXT 4:40 pm ALASKA vs AIR 21 7:25 pm	Oct 23 Sunday	AIR 21 vs STA LUCIA 4:10 pm RED BULL vs SAN MIGUEL 6:40 pm

CENTER EVENTS

PROMOS	*All Mall Food Gallery & Farmers Plaza Food Plaza Lunch & Dinner Rush Promo ongoing until November 14. Lunch for 2 for only P99 (10am - 1pm) & dinner for 2 for only P99 (7pm - 9pm)*
EVENTS	*SMB Oktoberfest every Friday & Saturday for the whole month of October at the Gateway Drive starting 9pm*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

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Race 2—1. Ocean Cookie 2. Extreme Con... 3. Tervalac 4. Sugar Ray
Race 3—1. Field Star 2. Starry Night 3. ... of Merit 4. Silent Wind
Race 4—1. Wind Runner/Cat's Jew... Love This Game 3. Vivere 4. W... Legend 5. Hakuna Matata
Race 5—1. Jay Nicole 2. Dagger L... Gung Ho 4. Gun Powder
Race 6—1. Court General 2. P... Sarah/Bullish Dream 3. Yao. M... Don't Dance 5. Flying Strike
Race 7—1. Boy from Brazil 2. Av... Power 3. Brenda Starr 4. Eden's I...
Race 8—1. Cutting Edge 2. Cool Run... Control Freak 4. Lolita 5. Colombia I...
Race 9—1. Gentleman's Lady 2. Hab... Valiant Queen 4. El Cid 5. Shy... Mandalay Bay

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on each other after beating the Cardinals, 5-1, tional League Championship Series. The Astros advance to the World Series. AFP

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Gotesco	The Leap 11:10am/ 12:30pm/ 2:30pm/ 4:30pm/ 6:30pm/ 8:30pm				
Ayala Cinema	Palermo Hollywood 11:30am	Hidden Blade 2:00pm	Palermo Hollywood 4:30pm	Dear Wendy 7:00pm	Hidden Blade 9:30pm

Please call the following cinemas for details: SM Manila 5239240, Ever Gotesco 7346901, Isetan 7334228, Robinson's Place Ermita 5367809, Ayala Cinema 7297777
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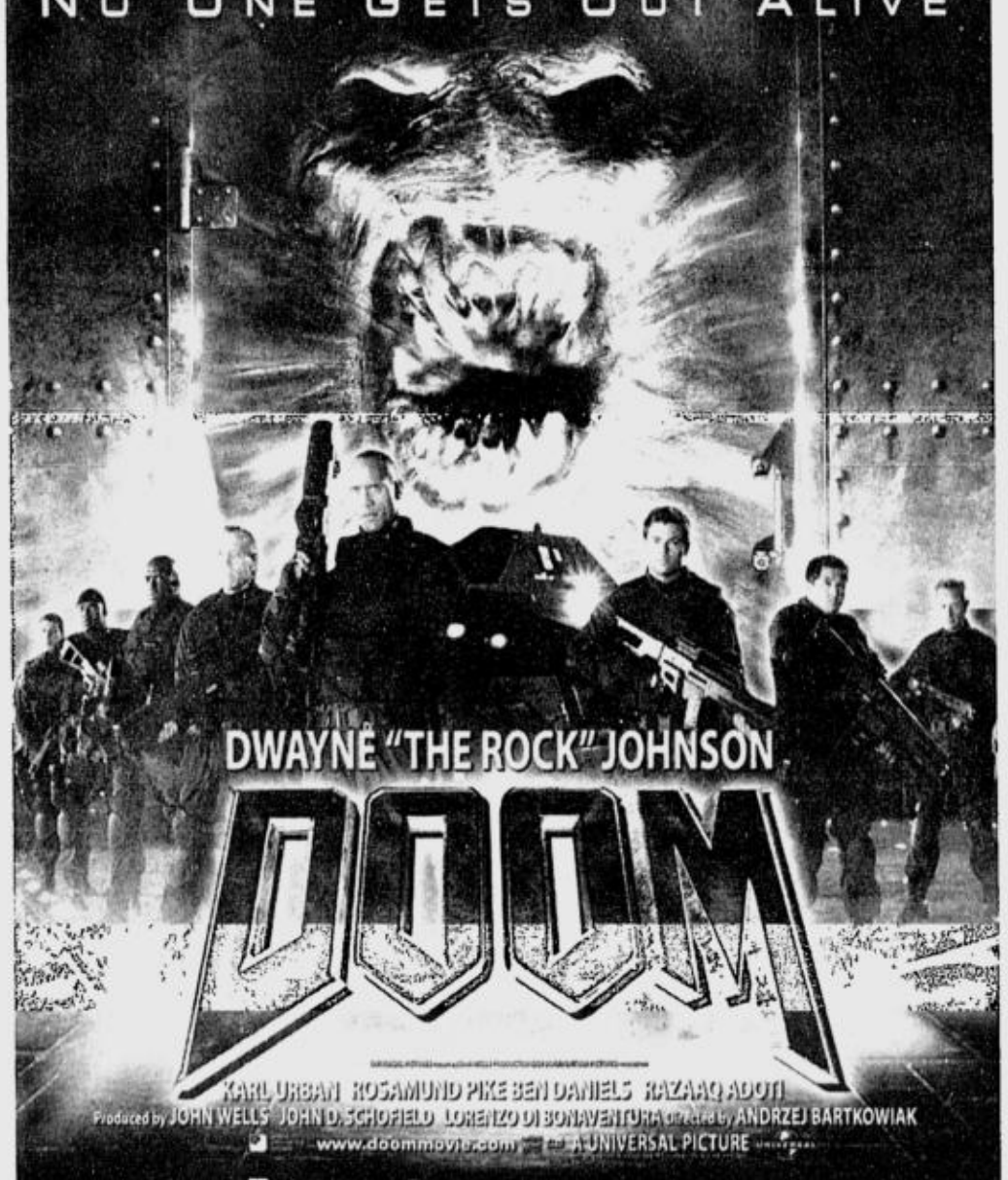

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Ateneo-La Salle tiff today

MURAKAMI

BAGUIO—DE LA Salle tries to get back at titleholder Ateneo when the arch rivals clash anew in the Ateneo-La Salle Match Play 2005 starting today at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

La Salle got a big reprieve with the inclusion of national player Artemio Murakami into its youth-laden roster.

Murakami is the biggest name in the cast of 18 players from each side in this showdown patterned after the Ryder Cup which has SMART Communications as presenter.

"It's all going to be a matter of strategy," said Ateneo team captain Teboy Javier as he kept an eye on his wards' practice yesterday. "Man for man, La Salle has the advantage but we faced the same problem last year and still won it."

"We prepared better than last year, we'll just try to keep it close until the last day," said La Salle captain Freddie Mendoza.

Ateneo made a surprise move by fielding in a female player, Katrina Gonzalez, and the former jungolf standout may even end up playing against Murakami in one of the best-ball/aggregate matches today.

The event got going at sundown yesterday. Doing the ceremonial shots were Camp John Hay chair and tournament host Bob Sobrepena, Rep. Maurico Domogan, Baguio vice mayor Peter Rey Bautista, Club Leisure president Peng Perez de Tagle and Benny Cabrieto of CJH Dev't. Co, Lito Tanjuatco and Mendoza of La Salle and Iggy Clavecilla and Javier for Ateneo.

Other sponsors are PLDT, Nokia, Camp John Hay Golf Club, Camp John Hay Dev't Co., Camp John Hay Manor, Golforce, Gainers Marketing, Pisanti, Kork, Le Chef and Club Leisure Management Corp.

Format shifts to alternate shots on the second day with 18 singles matches set on the final day.

The lineups:

Ateneo—Iggy Clavecilla, Loule Dacudao, Anthony Fernando, Katrina Gonzalez, Eric Gozo, Jeric Hechanova, Mari Hechanova, Marty Ilagan, Pepot Inigo, Bobby Inigo, Jovi Neri, Junjun Plana, Marcel Puyat, Joel Bernaldez, Benjie Sarmiento, Jingy Tuason, Yoyong Velez, Bobby Ysip, Venjo Reyes, Teboy Javier. Officials: Teboy Javier, Jimmy General, Andy Dumlao, Hedy See, Toogie Clavecilla

La Salle—Artemio Murakami, Francis Gaston, Raymond Sangil, Bobby Celestino, Loule Garcia, JR Tanpinco, JP Reyes, King Stehmeier, Ronnie Littaua, Raffy Garcia, Miko Yee, Miko Alejandro, Justin Limjap, Justin Tambunting, Oliver Gan, Marco Olives, Janz Tecson, Terence Macatangay, Brixton Aw, Ferdie Atendido. Officials: Freddie Mendoza, Henry Atayde, Lito Tanjuatco, Jay Gervasio

3rd Gov's Surfing Cup

THE 3RD GOVERNOR'S SURFING CUP GOT UNDER way yesterday in Puraran, Catanduanes, with the country's top wave chasers vying for top honors. A cash prize of P90,000 is at stake in the event serving as the fourth leg of the Philippine Surfing Circuit 2005. It will run up to Oct. 23. The event is being staged by the Philippine Surfing Federation headed by Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. For inquiries, call Zeny Pallugna at 0919-5355056 or Mhay Rondael at 0917-2085317.

PING G5 LAUNCH: The new G5 series of Ping was unveiled yesterday at Wack Wack. Steven Hsu, Ping regional manager for Asia, presents the G5 driver, Joey Mendoza of local distributor Golf Depot raises a Ping Tour wedge, Ping fitting manager for Asia Colin Field shows the G5i putter and Mike Osmena of Golf Depot brandishes the G5 hybrid.

Super Dry golfest for seniors on

THE COUNTRY'S GOLFing elders take center stage once again when the Federation of Philippine Amateur Golfers' Inc.'s 2005 San Miguel Super Dry Beer series resumes today. The Philippine Navy Golf Club Senior Golfers chapter in Fort Bonifacio is hosting the 18-hole tournament among 150 competitors who will vie for individual and team honors. Tee-off time is between 6:30 and 9:30 a.m. The awards ceremony will follow at 3 p.m.

"This will be the penultimate leg of our series," said Federation president Col. Abelardo Villanueva. "We will wind up the series at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in December.

The federation launched the series at Camp Aguinaldo then moved to Eastridge Golf and Country Club, Valley Golf and Country Club and Riviera Golf and Country Club

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October 22, 2005
Cinema 3
MY SASSY GIRL
October 24, 2005
Cinema 2
ISPIRITISTA
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THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 11:50FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 DOOM 11:30FS/011:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END
MEGAMALL
LORD OF WAR 10:15FS/10:45MF/01:00/03:15/05:30/07:45 09:30LFS/10:00LMF/11:45END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE KING & 1 (Stage Play October 18-19)
2 DOOM 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 12:00FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END
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2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 LORD OF WAR
6 INTO THE BLUE
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
9 DUBAI
10 TRUMPET: LITTLE MERMAID
11 WALLACE AND GROMIT
12 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
FAIRVIEW
1 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 LORD OF WAR
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DOOM
8 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
9 DUBAI
10 DARK WATER
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12 TRANSPORTER 2
NORTH EDSA
1 DOOM
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
5 DUBAI
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
7 LORD OF WAR
SM CITY MANILA
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
6 DOOM
7 CINEMANILA
8 LAND OF THE DEAD
9 DUBAI
10 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
11 WALLACE & GROMIT
12 BROTHERS GRIMM
SM CITY STA MESA
1 DOOM
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 LORD OF WAR
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 DUBAI
6 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 TRANSPORTER 2
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 DOOM
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
7 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
8 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
9 INTO THE BLUE
10 TRANSPORTER 2
SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 DOOM
2 LORD OF WAR
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 CINEMANILA
6 DUBAI
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 LORD OF WAR
4 DOOM
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 LORD OF WAR
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 DOOM
4 DUBAI
LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 WALLACE & GROMIT
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
6 DUBAI
SM CITY BACOOR
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 DOOM
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 LORD OF WAR
6 DUBAI
7 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
8 INTO THE BLUE
SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 DUBAI
4 DOOM
SM CITY LUCENA
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM CITY MARILAO
1 PERFECT CATCH
2 ONE MISSED CALL 2
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 PERFECT MAN
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 DUBAI
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 KING & I (STAGE PLAY)
2 DOOM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 PERFECT CATCH
5 BLADE OF ROSE
6 ONE MISSED CALL 2
7 DUBAI
8 LORD OF WAR
SM CITY ILOILO
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 INTO THE BLUE
7 RESERVED
8 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
SM CITY DAVAO
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 PERFECT MAN
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 DUBAI
4 TRANSPORTER 2
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CINEMA 1 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - PG13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
CINEMA 2 LORD OF WAR PG13 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
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CINEMA 3 DOOM R13 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
CINEMA 4 ADVENTURES of SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL - GP 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
CINEMA 5 DOOM R13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
October 28 PENIS TALKS 2 : All About Men 9PM
October 27, 2005 TARA TAMBUNTING CONCERT 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635
SHANGRI-LA CINEPLEX
1 THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY & LAVAGIRL MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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3 SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
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6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:00 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:00

2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 CORPSE BRIDE
1:50 3:50 5:50 7:50 9:50

3 LORD OF WAR
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

8 WALLACE AND GROMIT
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

9 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 MASAHISTA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

10 DOOM

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL 10:10 12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 10:00

2 MASAHISTA
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

6 CINEMANILA

4 LORD OF WAR
12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 10:00

7 DOOM

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1 LORD OF WAR
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:05

5 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:20

2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

7 WALLACE AND GROMIT
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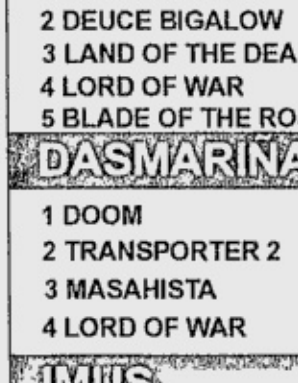

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	2 WALLACE & GROMIT	3 THX LORD OF WAR 12:10, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUTHER	5 INTO THE BLUE	6 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	7 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO 12:25, 2:25, 4:25, 6:25, 8:25		2 CINEMANILA For more details call, 750-4180 TO 81	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGOLO 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 LUTHER 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LORD OF WAR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO		2 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	
	3 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN	4 DUBAI	5 LORD OF WAR	
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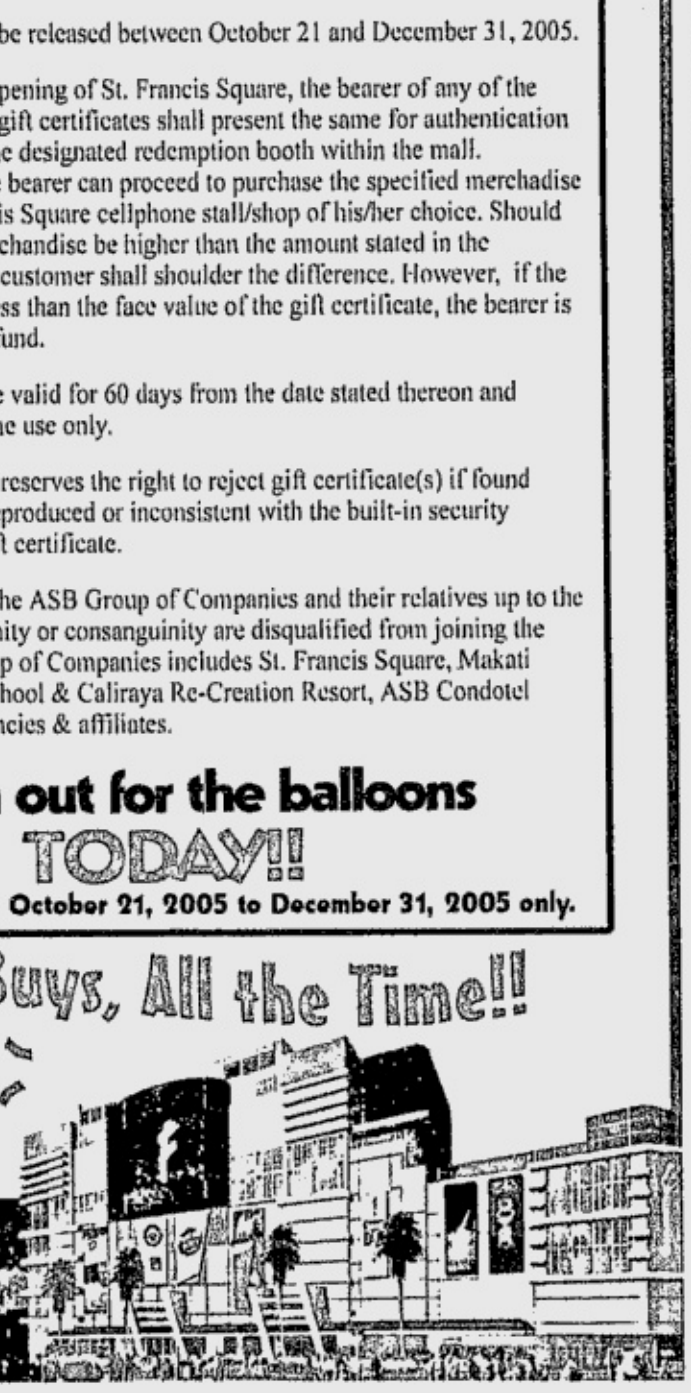

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SOON-TO-BE parents Rob and Lea CONRAD DELFINO

A mom called Lea

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

INTERNATIONAL STAR AND EXPECTANT mom Lea Salonga is taking it easy for a while, making it clear that infanticipating will be her priority in the next few months.

She talks about morning sickness: "It prevents me from doing very much during the day. But I can still sing, strangely enough."

And sing she will in the next few days: On Oct. 23, she'll be at the Cerritos Performing Arts Center in California for the Asian Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M) benefit show. On Nov. 7, she'll make her Carnegie Hall debut in New York City. On Dec. 9, she'll be back in the country for a concert in Cebu.

In her own words, Lea recalls how she learned of the stork's visit and reveals her cravings and her choice of names for the baby.

Your reaction when you learned the news?

Actually, my body was starting to clue me in to the subtle changes taking place. On Sept. 24, I took the pregnancy test, not anticipating anything remarkable. I had taken home tests before and was disappointed that I wasn't pregnant, so why should this morning be any different?

When it said positive, I screamed in the bathroom and rushed to my husband. We were ecstatic, stunned and totally excited.

Once we had the go-ahead at 7 1/2 weeks from my Ob-Gyne, we just burst at the seams and told everyone we knew and loved. We took ultrasound pictures at our two visits and were extremely surprised at how, in two weeks, that little person grew in size!

It was literally a dot at the first visit. Two weeks later, we went again to check for a heartbeat. We got that and so much more. It was a tearjerker of a day. Very emotional for my family.

What were your mom Ligaya and brother Gerard's reactions?

My mom couldn't believe it. I think she had been waiting for this for a while. This is her first grandchild, so of course she's so excited. As for my brother and his wife, she screamed and then both broke out in spontaneous applause. It's happy news for our family.

How do you feel now that motherhood is just seven months away?

Oh, a weird mélange of emotions: fear, excitement, anxiety, calm, blessedness. One friend described this new life growing inside me as a gem. I call it a great gift from God, an incredible blessing.

Have you decided on names yet?

For sure we want Beverly (for a girl) and Benjamin (for a boy) as middle names. We haven't committed to first names yet. I'm sure we'll figure out the perfect name in time. Definitely it'll have to be something that goes well with Chien.

How do you plan to divide your time between family and career?

Prioritizing. I guess it's figuring out what's really important and going on from there. Right now, nothing's more important than taking care of myself, even with the work coming up.

How do you see yourself as a mom? Strict or doting?

Probably a combination of both. There has to be structure as well as freedom. I want my child to have the best of everything and every opportunity available to him/her. For sure we won't spoil him/her. I wasn't indulged growing up. I don't foresee Rob and me raising our child that way.

How do you see your husband as dad? Your mom as grandma? Your brother as uncle?

I just envision everyone as very hands-on and loving. Rob will be a very loving father. I'll probably be more in charge of discipline. My mom will, for sure, spoil her *apo*. Gerard will be available for music tuition from birth.

Do you have unusual food cravings?

Fortunately, nothing too strange. There was one morning when I wanted in one bite: a waffle, a small peach slice, a piece of bacon and a fried egg. That same day I had to have a peanut butter and banana crêpe with ice cold skim milk. I've also craved my mother's white beans with chicken, salted fish, fried rice and French fries.

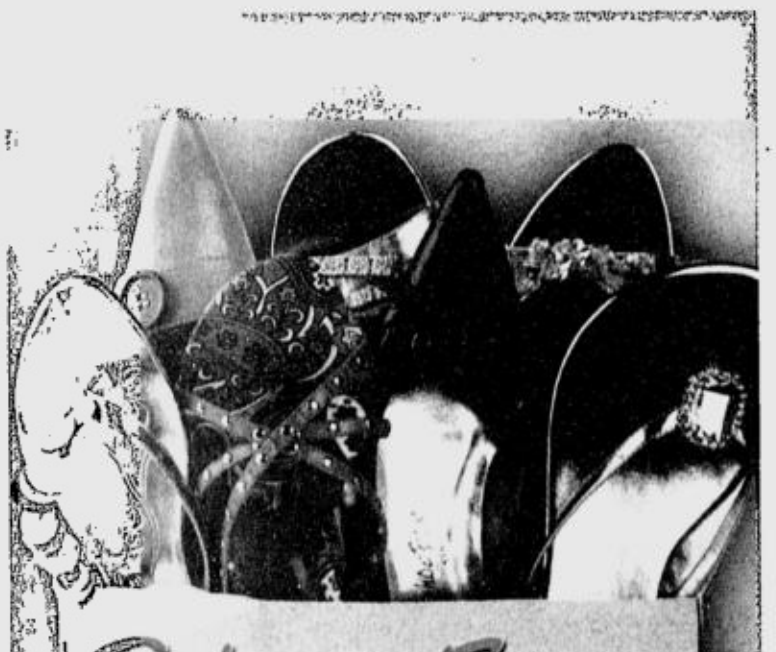
RIVERMAYA

Sunday driving hit

RIVERMAYA has another potential hit song in "Sunday Driving," culled from the album "Between the Stars and Waves."

Bassist Japs Sergio composed the music while Rico Blanco wrote the lyrics, perhaps inspired by Sunday driving to their parents' house.

The Viva Records album also contains the hits "A Love to Share," "Balisong" and "Liwanag sa Dilim."



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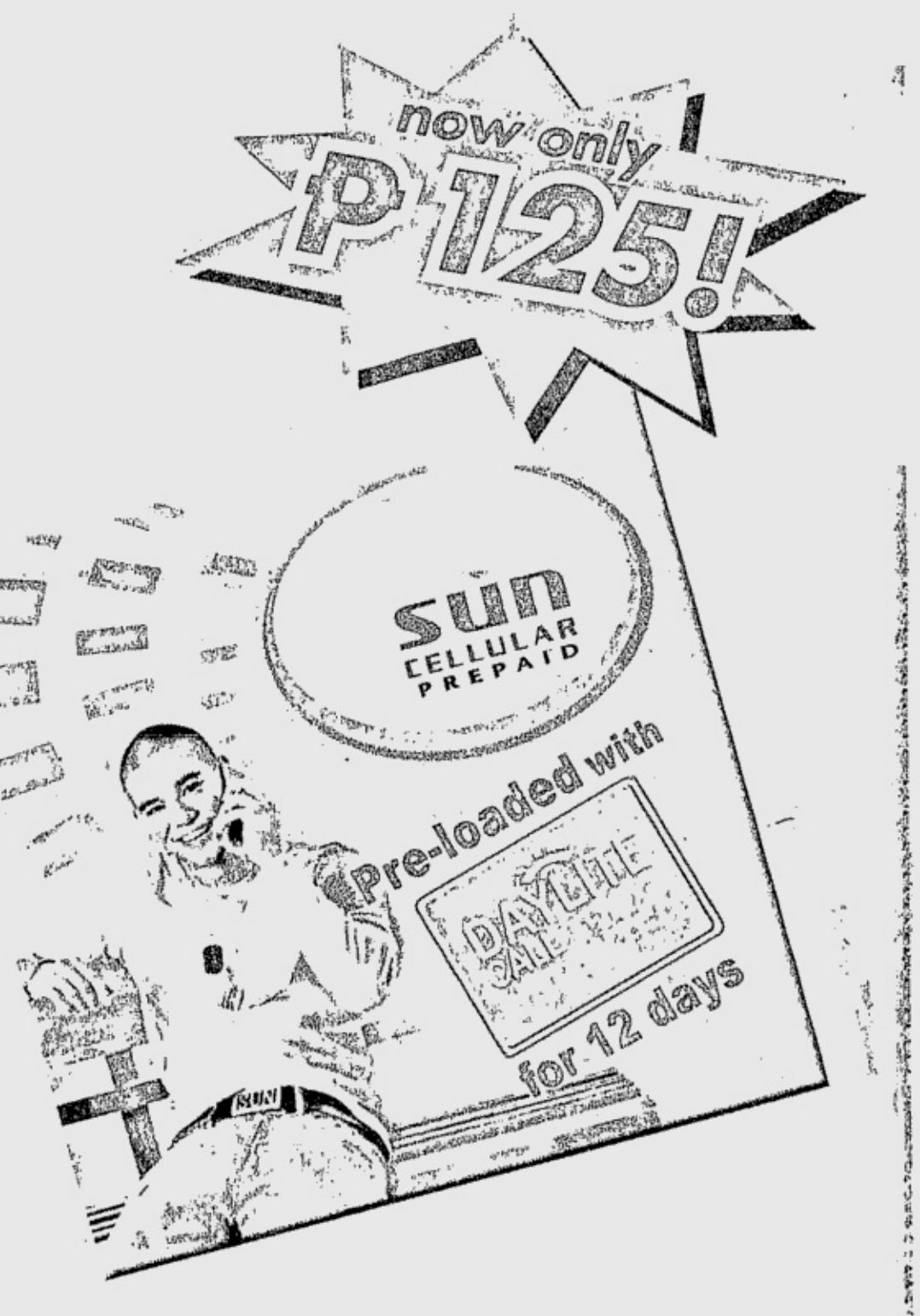

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SUMMER PLACE HOTEL

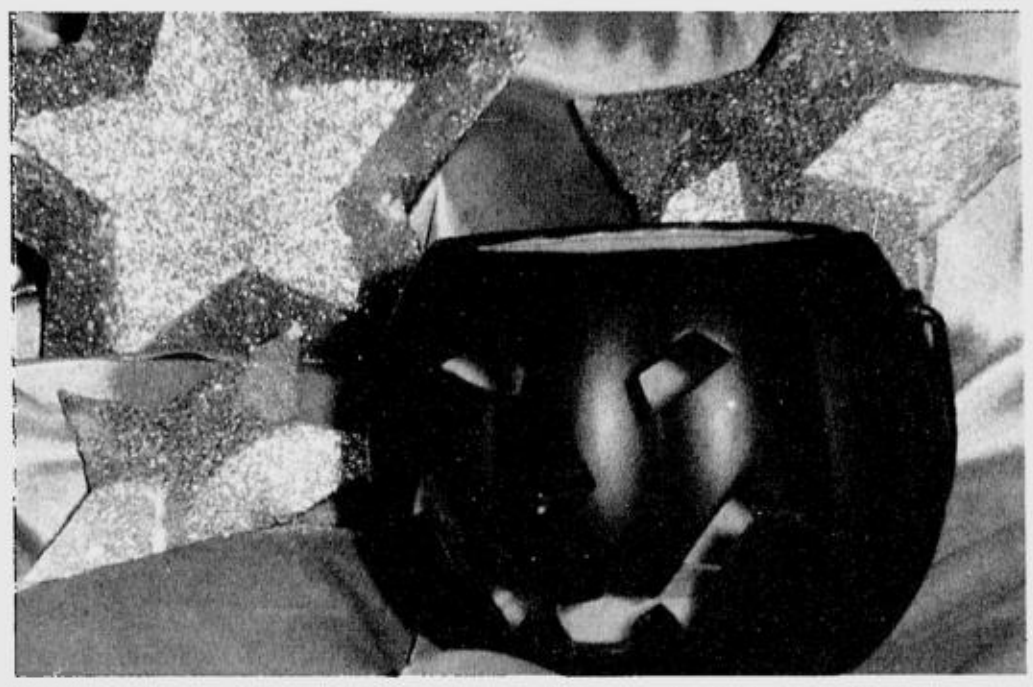
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

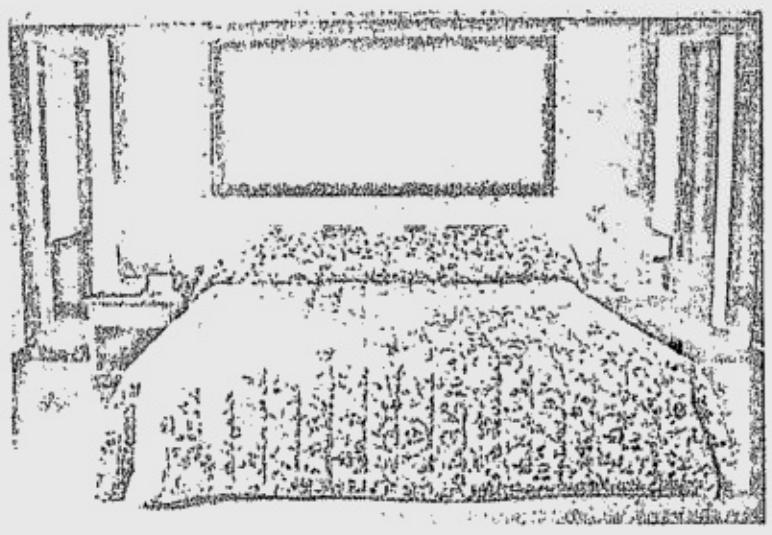
'Mystic Halloween' at Dusit Hotel

EXPERIENCE A MEMORABLE HALLOWEEN with Dusit Hotel Nikko's "Mystic Halloween" celebration and treat your kids to an afternoon of great surprises at the hotel's The Café restaurant and Fiesta San Miguel from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 29. Kids who will take the Kiddie Buffet, priced at only P350 nett, at The Café will have complimentary access to the activities. At Fiesta San Miguel, a minimum single receipt of P500 on Oct. 29 affords your child to complimentary access to the Halloween activities.

Kids ages 12 years and below, will surely enjoy The Café's Face Painting, Magnolia's Cookie and Cupcake Decorating, Nickelodeon's "Danny Phantom" film showing and the much-awaited Mystic "Trick or Treat" Hunt around the hotel. Aside from these, Fiesta San Miguel will delight kids with the Ventriloquist Show and captivate them with the Magic Show, aside from the fun games where kids can win exciting items from Osh Kosh, Cinderella and Enchanted Kingdom, specially prepared for them. Osh Kosh B'Gosh will also have a 'Kiddie Fashion Show' as a prelude to the awarding of the 'Best in Halloween Costume' contest. Kids in their best Halloween costumes will take home prizes from Nickelodeon, Care Bears and Learning is Fun. And off course, your kids will receive bags full of products from Jelly Ace, Candy Mix, Fun Chum, Wrigleys, Leslie's Food Corp and Regent Foods Corp.



Starting Oct. 15 to 28, diners with a minimum single receipt of P1,000 will have a chance to pick instant prizes from the "Genie's Bowl." From this period, kids may join the "Mystic Halloween Art Contest" and display their artwork at The Café's "Kiddie Corner." Kids with the best in art coloring will take home prizes from Merit Paper Products which will be awarded during the 'Mystic Halloween' event on Saturday the 29th. Dimensions Photography will take the kiddie photos of the event.



OKTOBERFEST AT MANILA PAVILION HOTEL

As the Oktoberfest continues to gain popularity in the country, so has Manila Pavilion Hotel's yearly version of this beer extravaganza. On Oct. 28, Manila Pavilion Hotel gathers the greatest bands that have performed in the Oom Pa Pa street parties like Muzik Matrix, Family Cruz, Righteous Act, Music Network, Arpie & D'Multivitamins, Major Impact, and True Faith. Take pleasure in exciting raffle prizes, lively games, a hearty fare and of course, the bounty of beer from San Miguel. There is nothing like an Oktoberfest out in the streets. Feel its unique festiveness by being at the Oom-Pa-Pa 8: Best of the Bands at T.M. Kalaw street, Ermita, Manila on Friday, Oct. 28 starting 6 p.m. Tickets are at P200 net. For inquiries, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel's Oktoberfest hotline 526-1212 extension 2647.

Flavors of Spain launch at the Top of the Citi

FUEGO HOTELS & PROPERTIES in collaboration with The Spanish Institute for Foreign Trade (Icex) of the Spanish Embassy, recently launched "Flavors of Spain 2005" at the posh Top of the Citi in Makati. Invited guests were treated to a wonderful array of Spanish delights courtesy of Spanish chef Mikel Arriet. Top favorites of the night were the chip de patata con mejillones y ali-oli de manzana, Magret de pato con peras, Hojalde de txistorra and chocolate con churros... all of which were prepared using only Spanish Olive Oil. The exquisite Jamon Iberico was the guest of honor, brought in from Spain for the festivities. Guests were queuing to have a slice or two of this savory jamon.

The event was hosted Johnny Litton, and graced by diplomats, prominent businessmen and women. A local acoustic quartet, Yerbaguena, regaled guests with Spanish beats.

Catch the Flavors of Spain at breathtaking Taal Vista Hotel for the entire month of October; at the beautiful Pearl Farm Beach Resort for the whole month of November and finally at the exclusive Club Punta Fuego on December. All three hotels/resorts will feature Spanish Lunch Buffets every weekend. Enjoy refreshing beverages from the Sangria Bar and nibble on pintxos and other Spanish goodies from the Tapas menu. The Flavors of Spain 2005 is co-presented by Mastercard with major sponsors Smart Infinity, Citibank and Ramon Bilbao with media partners Food Magazine, Whats On & Expat, Businessworld and Crossover 105.1.

City Garden Hotel great deals

SINCE IT OPENED, CITY GARden Hotel Makati, along Makati Avenue, has slowly gained the reputation of transporting you away from the hustle and bustle of the city into its uniquely comforting environment, a perfect retreat for a stressed out businessman. Its 160-well appointed Italian inspired rooms make for a comfortable stay, without keeping one totally away from it all. For as low as P1,350 per person based on twin sharing, all the rooms are equipped with the latest room amenities like cable TV with remote control, in-room safe, IDD/NDD telephone, automated wake-up call, well-stocked minibar, facsimile access port, and a fast Internet access.

For dynamic meetings, lively reunions and treasured special occasions, its flexible function rooms that can accommodate from 10 to 250 persons, delectable selection of food and wide array of beverages, and its professional banquet staff will surely make it a memorable one. Banquet packages provide you with almost all the amenities you need for a hassle-free arrangements.

Packages come for as low as P24,750+. Reception venues may be held at its cozy, fully-equipped function rooms or at the al fresco Roofdeck.

An exclusive retreat for travelers

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO HAS CREATED an exclusive retreat for leisure and business travelers - the Waterfont Ambassador Club. At the Waterfront Ambassador Club, you can work hard and at the same time, rest easy. With exclusive comforts such as complimentary airport transfers, express check-in and check out you can be assured your trip will be without hassle. With complimentary daily newspaper, an upgraded complimentary continental breakfast, complimentary beverages, suit pressing and shoe shine service, you won't have to worry about the little things. You can also relax and enjoy at the Ambassador Club Lounge. The laid-back atmosphere of the Club Lounge is a perfect spot for unwinding, after a full day of meetings. It has the amenities of a busy businessman from a boardroom to an exclusive business center with broadband Internet access. The best thing of it all, while checked-in at the Ambassador Club, you are accorded with your personal butler.

Mandarin's Halloween holiday package for local residents

SPEND THE HALLOW SEASON with your loved ones at Mandarin Oriental, Manila and experience the luxuries of its Halloween holiday package for local residents. Room packages proffer special rates starting at P3,300++ (room only). For privilege card members, special room rates start at P3,000++ (room only) and are entitled to the use of complimentary coupons. The offer is valid from Oct. 29 to Nov. 6.

Delight in other exciting attractions to make your long weekend worthwhile, by checking out Mandarin Oriental's splendid cuisine, as prepared by the hotel's creative culinary team. At the newly renovated

The Tivoli, enjoy classic tableside dishes such as, Steak tartare, Scampi pernod, and other flambé dishes; Paseo Uno's theatre of open kitchens offer international and Asian specialities; Tin Hau, the hotel's premier Chinese restaurant serves sumptuous buffet of Northern and Southern specialities; and, Captain's Bar, a favorite meeting and dining place of business executives and families by day, offers diners various delectable buffet for lunch as follows -- Pasta and Noodles (Mondays); Asian Tapas (Tuesdays); Light and Easy (Wednesdays); Carvery (Thursdays); and, Seafood (Fridays).

And for those on the lookout for a place to unwind in the evenings, Captain's Bar features the East Wind Jazz Trio on Oct. 28 playing modern classics and standard hits for a soothing mood music. A minimum beverage consumable fee of P350++ per person applies. On Nov. 4 and 5, Kuh Ledesma Presents Show will feature solo artist Moise, for scintillating nights of entertainment.

SHE PLAYS the intractable Meredith in "The Family Stone."

Sarah Jessica Parker's life after 'Sex'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—SARAH JESSICA Parker, flowing, curly hair and all, strode into the Wentworth Room of the Ritz Carlton Pasadena to talk about her new movie, "The Family Stone." But she ended up gabbing mostly about her life after HBO hit series "Sex and the City."

It has been over a year since Sarah hung up her Manolos, but the assembled journalists couldn't stop asking about Carrie Bradshaw (the character she played in "Sex"). **Matthew Broderick**'s famous missus is enjoying her role as mom to **James Wilkie Broderick**, who turns 3 years old on the 28th.

"What's wonderful is that he's now in school so that's going to dictate everything," said the four-time Golden Globe best actress awardee for a TV series (comedy category). "I can't leave during the school year so I have to do movie shoots in New York. If a movie doesn't shoot in New York, I can't do it."

In the comedy-drama "The Family Stone," Sarah again plays a New Yorker (Meredith Morton) but the difference is, she is an uptight, controlling career woman.

Below are excerpts of our interview with Sarah.

What were your feelings when you started working on this film after such tremendous success with the TV series?

It was a very hard decision to end the show, especially because I was very happy there. But I recognized that it was time for me to be more of a journeyman again the way I had been prior to this extraordinary thing. When we stopped doing the show, I was fortunately encouraged by my counsel to really take my time and not worry so much about working right away but concentrating more on making the right choice. The ideal was to find a role that was radically different from Carrie Bradshaw. So it was wonderful to find this part although it was very scary to be among new people.

So you felt that this was a completely different part.

Let me clarify that I am not running away from Carrie Bradshaw. I don't feel burdened by the image of what she was and is, but as an actor, I wanted to do something different. While it would have been very comfortable and lucrative to do romantic comedies with familiar urban women, that really wasn't going to be interesting for me. I really wanted to play this part because Meredith is so different from anything I had ever done. She is so controlled, rigid and intractable, such a wreck of a person and so unfamiliar with interpersonal relationships. Carrie Bradshaw was the exact opposite. She was constantly deconstructing people, was curious, loose and comfortable.

How much of Carrie Bradshaw is in you—fashion-wise?

We were different. She was a far less modest person than I was. I wouldn't wear a lot of the outfits in public that she would. Carrie's exhibitionism is not something that I ever shared. There's a real distinction between her aesthetics and mine. I certainly was braver because of my exposure to **Patricia Fields** (the series' wardrobe designer) and how she chose to design the show. But I was always somebody who basically wore more clothing than Carrie did. I'm a married person and it was never appropriate for me to dress the way Carrie Bradshaw did. But it was wonderful to have to dress for work that way. It's like living a completely different life—a double life.

Can you talk about the emotional impact of ending that show? How long did it take you to get over it?

I can't tell you that I'm actually over it. I don't know if I want to be. I don't know that I will ever be. The show was so much a part of my makeup... I miss the people and our relationship with the city—shooting in the city, the way we did. No matter how many movies I shoot in New York, I'll never shoot in New York the same way ever again.

The New York magazine lists you as...

Oh, brother...

...the richest woman in New York.

Do you believe that I have $38 million (laughing)? If I had $38 million, I'd be screaming it from the rooftops! You wouldn't have to read about it in New York magazine (laughing). If I had $38 million, I wouldn't be a quiet, private philanthropist. I'd be very public. I would brag about the libraries, schools and the arts programs I saved and the people I'm housing after Katrina. I do not have $38 million (laughing)!

How do you explain the success of your marriage?

It just worked for us to this point. I mean, who is to say what the future is going to hold? I don't want to appear righteous about my marriage. I am not. It's just that ours has worked to this point.

What was your attitude going into this marriage?

My attitude is like that of everybody else who enters into a marriage—you're hopeful and your intentions are to be with this particular chosen person for as long as you can bear it (laughing). I am just kidding (laughing). I believed in the idea of this marriage and I still do. It has to do with the choices that we make as a couple. Our lives outside of this industry are really fulfilling to us. My husband has this extraordinary career which is very enviable and there's not a bigger champion of him than I am. He feels very content and satisfied and I am too, certainly.

How important is acting to you? And how do you define success and happiness?

Acting to me is what I am most familiar with. It's what I've done longer than anything. I've been working for 32 years now. Acting is still new all the time and yet still really familiar. And what does success mean to me? A full refrigerator. As many groceries as we need without worrying. Happiness is my life with my son and my husband. Just waking up every day knowing everyone's healthy. It's very simple. It has nothing to do with $38 million (laughing).

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

Fright night stories from the stars

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

LUNAR-POWERED CREATURES LIKE ME revel during Halloween. It's one night that seems deeper and darker, coaxing colorful creatures to come out and play.

We all have our favorite horror stories. I cornered some celebrities and asked them about their most frightening experiences. The witching hour is near. Don't brew what I wouldn't brew. Happy Halloween!

ALBERT MARTINEZ: "My family and I stayed in one of the officer's cottages at the old Camp John Hay. I had driven all the way from Manila after my taping so when we arrived at the cottage, I was dead tired. I opted to stay in the cottage to sleep while my wife and kids went out for dinner. Around 10 p.m. I heard sounds of people coming in. They were talking and laughing in whispers. From the room I saw shadows so I called out and asked what they brought back for me. I felt a cold wind but no reply. I called to them again. Still no reply. I thought they were playing a trick on me. So I came out of the room. Only to find out that I was all alone and the doors were locked. Yikes! That was my one and only experience with the spirits. I get goose bumps every time I recall that moment!"

CARMINA VILLAROEL: "My sis and I were on a flight to Manila from Guam when the engine suddenly got noisy. There was a commotion. We had to make an emergency landing because one engine conked out. I panicked and I kept on praying. I thought it was really the end for me. I didn't have kids at that time. Now every time I look at my twins, I tell myself that I can't die!"

OGIE ALCASID: "One of the scariest things that happened to me was when I heard strange voices coming from the intercom. I couldn't discern what the voices were saying even as I listened closely. As a singer I'm attuned to all kinds of voices. I swear that was really something freaky!"

JOLINA MAGDANGAL: "When I was a guest co-host in 'Extra Challenge,' I had to pull the tail of a crocodile. I have always been afraid of crocodiles. Gosh! I had a fever after the shoot *sa sobrang takot ko*!"

DENNIS TRILLO: "Nov. 1, four years ago my family and I went off for a vacation. Nobody was in the house except for the maids. It was past midnight and the helpers thought that I had returned because they heard someone pounding my drum set. They were so shocked to find out that no one was there. I shuddered when they told me what happened!"

MAEGAN AGUILAR: "I was alone in the Dubai airport hotel and I felt a presence. I stayed awake till 7 a.m. Whether I was in bed or in the bathroom I had a feeling that someone was watching and following me. It was creepy!"

ARNOLD CLAVIO: "During my 2nd Igan cup golf tournament at Eastridge Golf, Binangonan, we received info that the Naia tower was being held hostage by Col. Panfilo Villaruel. It was scary because while I was interviewing him over dzBB, government troops assaulted him and he died. Till now I hear gunfire and his last gasps of breath while helplessly calling my name."

FRANCIS MAGALONA: "One night on my way home from a recording, I passed a dark and unlit portion in Pasig. All of a sudden *tumaas balahibo ko*. I couldn't look at my rearview mirror."

'HI-5 GPEC'

S MAGAZINE celebrates its fourth year while Inside Showbiz turns 1 tomorrow (Oct. 22) at The Garden of SM City North Edsa. Global Publishing and Entertainment Corporation (GPEC) is throwing a big celebration dubbed "HI-5 GPEC," featuring a star-studded show hosted by **Raymond Lauchengco, Sherilyn Reyes, Alma Concepcion, Smokey Manaloto, Marissa Sanchez** and **Chokoleit**. Party starts at 4 p.m.

FOR FEEDBACK, e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com

It's a boy for Dawn

"DAWN AND THE BABY ARE BOTH healthy," announced the manager of Dawn Zulueta, who gave birth to a baby boy on Wednesday morning at the Makati Medical Center.

The actress' manager Vivian Recio said Dawn and her husband, businessman Anton Lagdameo, had yet to come up with a name for the child.

Baby Lagdameo was born at 9:30 a.m. Dawn was scheduled to give birth in November.

"The family is not worried about her," Recio said in a phone interview. "It's a normal occurrence for some mothers to give birth earlier than expected."

Doctors had advised Dawn to take a break from show biz commitments because of her delicate pregnancy. At the time she found out about her condition, Dawn was working on GMA 7's fantaserye "Encantadia," where she plays the role of Inang Reyna.

In an earlier interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Dawn said she and Anton waited seven years for the baby. The actress got pregnant earlier, but suffered a miscarriage. The Lagdameos got married in 1997.

Marinel R. Cruz

DAWN Zulueta

ROUNDUP

Mega sings Alcasid

MEGASTAR Sharon Cuneta pays tribute to her loyal fans with the release of her new album "Sharon Sings Alcasid" under Sony BMG Music Entertainment. Sharon will be at the Cinema 5 of Robinsons Galleria in Pasig City tomorrow to spend a day with her fans.

A purchase of "Sharon Sings Alcasid" at the gate entitles the buyer to two tickets to see the Megastar perform songs from the album. Buyers will also get a free limited edition Sharon Cuneta poster.

The album contains 14 memorable tracks of Ogie Alcasid's well-loved songs including "Sa Kanya," "Nandito Ako," "Sana," "Hanggang Ngayon," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," "Ikaw Sana," "Pangarap Kong Ibigin Ka," "Kung Mawawala Ka," "Dito Sa Puso Ko," "Mahal Kita Walang Iba," "Pangako," and the duet version (with Ogie) of "Nandito Ako." It also includes two new songs of Ogie specially written for the Sharon—"Ikaw Ang Pagibig" and "Tanging Ikaw Lamang."

Kiddie Halloween treat

"ISPIRITISTA: Itay, May Moomoo" will have its pre-Halloween matinee premiere at SM Megamall Cinema 3 tomorrow, Oct. 22, 5 p.m. for orphaned children. The cast members—Vic Sotto, BJ "Tolits" Forbes, Cindy Kurleto, Jose Manalo, Wally Bayola and Gladys Guevarra—will be on hand to meet and mingle with their guests.

Regal Entertainment and APT Entertainment, producers of "Ispiritista," will give away special gift packs and will host magic shows and other fun-filled activities for the kids.

The comedy adventure's regular run begins on Oct. 26 in selected theaters nationwide.

'Fashion Velocity'

WORKS of Manila's top fashion designers will be showcased in a fashion show, titled "Fashion Velocity," tomorrow, 8 p.m., at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

Proceeds of the show will benefit projects of the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation and community projects of the International Academy of Management and Economics.

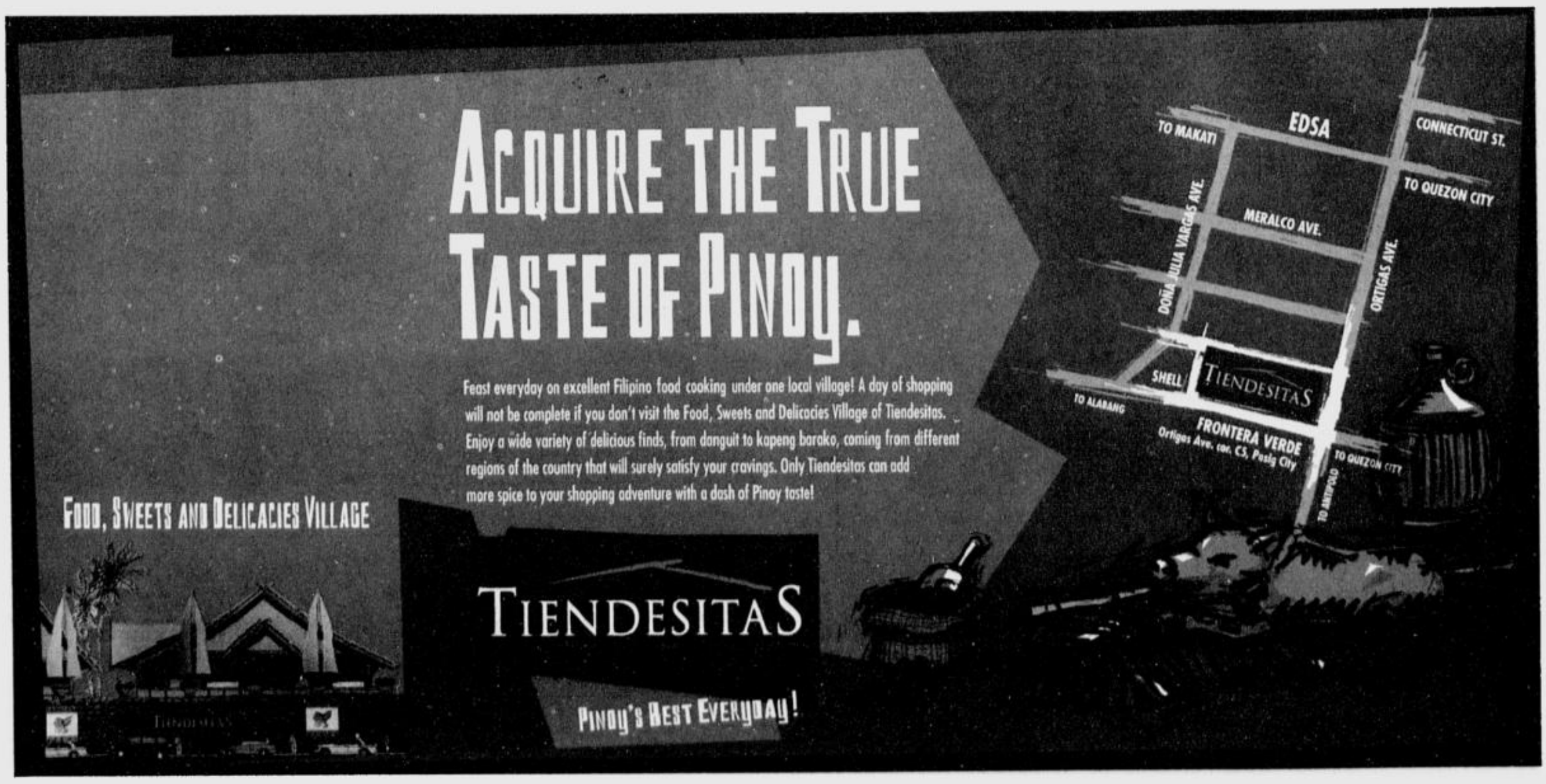
The show is a college project of IAME management students, led by international model Melanie Marquez. Creations of designers Eddie Badeo, Barge Ramos, Toni Galang, JunJun Cambe, Joji Aguilar, Frederick Peralta and Renee Salud will be worn by top runway models.

'Penis Talks Reloaded'

THE CONTROVERSIAL sexy male revue "All About Men 2... Penis Talks Reloaded" will have two more runs tonight and tomorrow at the Music Museum.

Jay Manalo, Christian Vazquez, Luis Alandy, Polo Ravales, Reggie Curley, Paolo Paraiso, RJ Rosales, Rich Vergara, Roselle Nava, Joy Viado and Ricci Chan will perform under the direction of Joel Lamangan and Mel Chionglo.

Tickets are sold at P2,000, P1,5000, P1,000 and P800. For inquiries call 721-0635, 891-9999 and 374-1361.



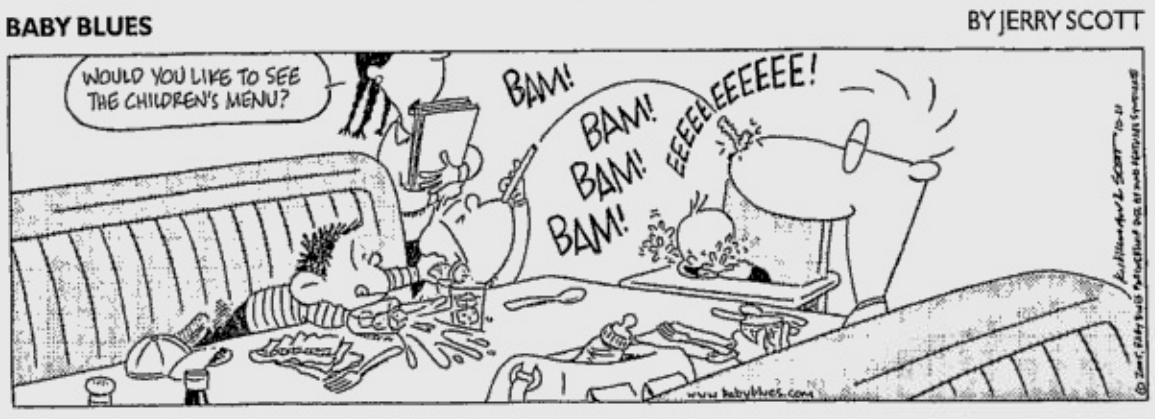
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a fine mind and strong verbal skills. You're clever. People find you attractive and fascinating. You have the ability to sit back and watch others. Because of this, you learn a lot. In fact, people turn to you for advice. The year ahead will focus on your closest partnerships and friendships.
Birthdate of: Carrie Fisher, actress/writer; Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet; Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You will adore the arts and all things beautiful today. Even philosophical, religious and spiritual ideas move you—perhaps to tears—in an inspirational way.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel generous deep within you. You want to help those who are less fortunate than you are. You'll do anything (including working with the resources of others) to be able to assist those who need it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's pleasant talking to partners and friends today. You feel unusually sympathetic to each other's thoughts and words. Just make sure that you stay realistic. (It's easy to get carried away on Cloud Nine.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your idealism is aroused at work. Perhaps you want to help a co-worker. Perhaps a co-worker wants to help you. This is a good thing.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's hard not to fall in love with somebody today—that's for sure. You've got your heart on your sleeve. Look for opportunities to help needy children. (This will be very rewarding.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be sympathetic toward family members today. Be ready to lend your money, possessions or assistance if possible. Somebody needs you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a pleasant, dreamy day. Conversations with siblings, relatives and neighbors are gentle and easygoing. However, make sure that business negotiations are fair to all parties, especially you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're tempted to spend your money on luxury today. Alternatively, you're tempted to spend your money on people who are suffering. Which do you think will give you the most long-term satisfaction?

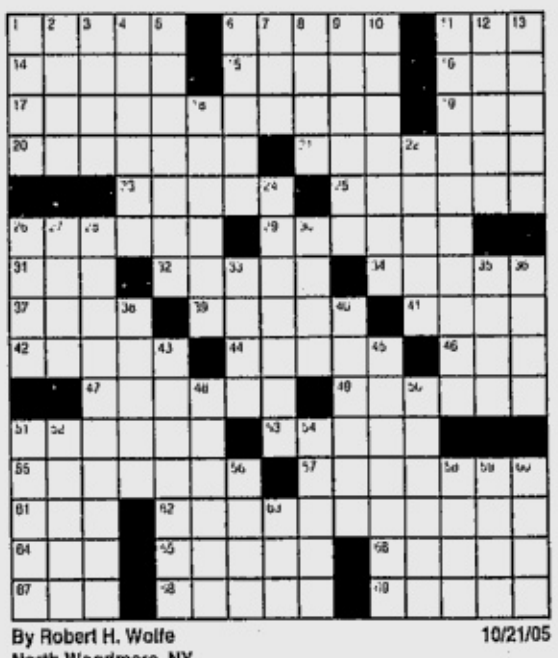
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel like Mother Teresa today. Your heart is tender, and you want to help anyone who needs it. You see that we're all in this Big Soup together.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Time spent in solitude will be rewarding for you today. You need some quiet time just for yourself. Go somewhere to contemplate your navel or smell the roses.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel loving toward a friend. You might join forces with others to perform charitable activities for society. You want to do something for the greater good.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today people look at you as a sympathetic, caring person. Meanwhile, you might be developing a crush on your boss! (Woo woo.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

10/21/05

ACROSS
1 Kind of training
6 Littlenecks, e.g.
11 General Arnold's nickname
14 Competition site
15 Mechanical worker
16 Ecol. watchers
17 Nutty "All My Children" star?
19 Baton Rouge sch.
20 Manicurist's boards
21 Deli offerings
23 Not likely
25 Maltreat
26 Wind heading east
29 When this occurred
31 Moray or conger
32 Entangle
34 Levees
37 Dash
39 Beef source
41 Stellar explosion
42 Frozen dessert
44 Spoke wildly
46 Part of a journey
47 Fivesome
49 Backless sofas
51 Conceive
53 Dish up
55 Device for doing work
57 Kitchen implements
61 Sch. group
62 Nutty fighter, originally?
64 Actor Cariou
65 Follow
66 Work out
67 Cen. units
68 Ceases
69 Weather balloon device

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2 Cuckoopint
3 Zaire's Mobutu __ Seko
4 Routinized
5 Boxers, e.g.
6 Fresh and firm
7 Land parcel
8 Rudiments
9 Goat coat
10 Quieted
11 Nutty German leader?
12 Orbital point
13 Break
18 Picks up
22 Actor Delon
24 Fashionable duds
26 Jack of "Dragnet"
27 Son of Eliel Saarinon
28 Nutty "Dr. Strangelove" actor?
30 Ht.
33 Gillette razor
35 Tied
36 Droops
38 West Indies sorcery
40 Sketched once again
43 Holds out a carrot to
45 Strips
48 Flat user
50 Trademark fastener
51 Suggest
52 Librarian's stamp
54 Fencing weapons
56 Exxon's former name
58 Verve
59 Foray
60 New Year's word
63 Marching word

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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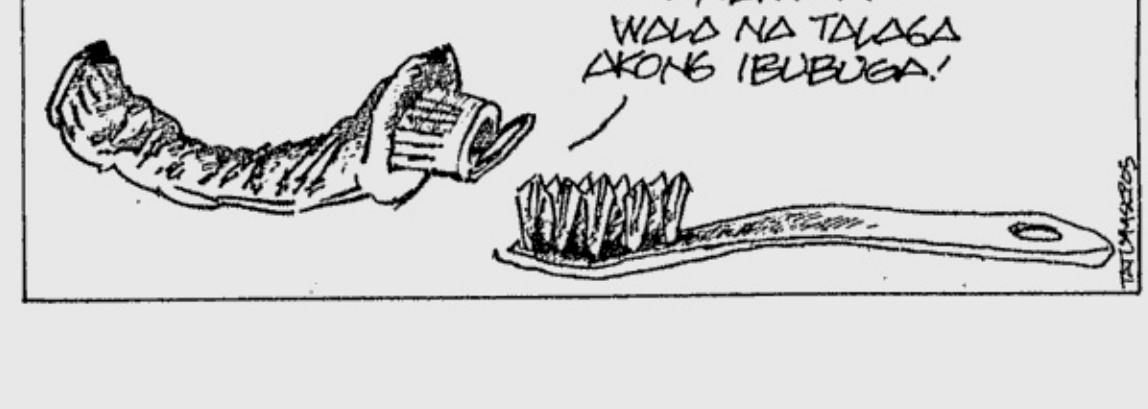
10/21/05

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Bangko Sentral raises key rates

Third increase this year takes market by surprise

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas yesterday jacked up its key overnight rates by another 25 basis points to a three-year high, aiming to curb inflationary pressures due to soaring oil prices and increasing money supply.

The Monetary Board, the BSP's policy-making body, raised its key rates by a quarter during the monthly monetary policy setting yesterday, bringing the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate to 7.5 percent, and the overnight lending or repurchase rate to 9.75 percent.

It was the third time this year that the BSP had raised its overnight rates, bringing them to their highest level since 2002.

The move caught the financial market by surprise as most analysts did not expect the BSP to further tighten the rates until the next rate setting in November.

"The MB believes that the need for a timely response to expected pressures, the risk of a sustained breach of the inflation target and the continued presence of excess liquidity in the financial system provide the impetus for monetary action," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He said the "less accommodative" stance taken by the monetary authorities was necessary to address risks to inflation and inflation expectations.

But according to Joseph Roxas, president of stock brokerage Eagle Equities Inc., the BSP served "the wrong prescription."

"That's like removing oxygen from a patient who can't breathe," Roxas said. "This type of inflation is called cost-push inflation. Higher interest rates will raise costs even more."

But the BSP chief said the MB decided to further tighten the rates as the BSP's latest forecasts—incorporating more recent data on inflation, output and other key variables—indicated that even inflation targets by 2007 could be breached due to effects coming from "supply-side pressures."

BANGKO/ B5

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Potential investment areas in mining industry

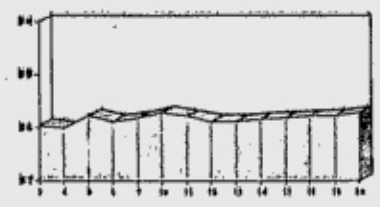
Source: Mines and Geosciences Bureau

***IN LINE** with the government's program to revitalize mining operations in the Philippines, the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences Bureau identified 24 priority mineral development projects that could attract $4.79 billion worth of investments. From these projects that are expected to earn $7.2 billion in gross sales, government could get $518.72 million worth of excise and income taxes annually.*

Chona Galang, PDI Research

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.71 = $1

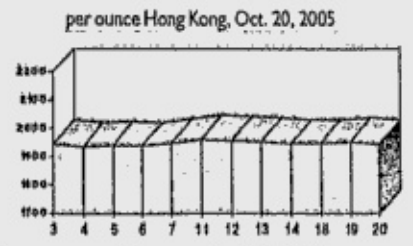
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 20, 2005

¥ 115.64 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 20, 2005

GOLD: $463.10-463.60

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 20, 2005



Shares close 0.49% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.49 percent lower on quick profit-taking amid growing concerns the government might not go ahead with its controversial value-

SHARES/ B4

WHAT'S INSIDE

NDC to venture into cargo, passenger shipping /B2

Billionaire's secrets /B5

Jollibee buys Red Ribbon for P1.8B /B12

RP working hard to get off property rights watch list

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT that the country may be finally removed from the United States' list of top property rights violators.

"We are confident that the country could be at least 'upgraded' to the (non-priority) watch list," said Adrian S. Cristobal Jr., director general of the Intellectual Property Office, following the visit of a monitoring team from the US. "But we are working hard for the outright removal (of the country from such lists)."

Cristobal said it was "not usual" for such a team to visit the country, considering that an off-cycle review of the Philippines' IPR situation is about to start.

"The mission included officials from the US Trade Representative, US Patents and Trademarks Office and the US Department of Commerce," Cristobal said.

The United States conducts a yearly review of the countries under watch for possible IPR violations. The review usually is conducted between February and April.

An off-cycle review—done only upon request and after much deliberation—is conducted between the regular yearly review.

In last year's review, the US kept the country on its priority watch list (PWL) of IPR violators under the so-called Special 301 Report.

The report groups violators into four classes: priority foreign countries, PWL, watch list, and Section 306.

Countries listed on the PWL are those considered not providing adequate IPR protection for branded American products and rights holders.

Those listed are subject to fast-tracked investigations and possible

RP WORKING/ B5

For a developing country like the Philippines, microenterprises such as sari-sari stores and handicrafts businesses constitute a significant segment of the commercial sector. These facilitate trade and services for lower-income families, many of whom derive additional income from such ventures. To further strengthen and extend the services offered by these enterprises – as well as develop the m-commerce ecosystem in the countryside – Globe G-Cash has pioneered mobile microfinancing efforts in partnership with the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP), and its USAID-funded program, Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS). Dubbed Text-a-Payment, the service enables borrowers to conveniently pay for their monthly loan amortizations via G-Cash.

Mr. Jose Robert Mendoza, President of G-Xchange, Inc., (seated, second from right) and Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) President Senen Glorioso (seated, second from left) sign a memorandum of understanding to pilot-test the use of G-Cash as a means for collection and payment of loans from rural banks. Also in photo are: Mr. John Owens, chief of party of the Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS) program (seated, extreme left), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cognizant technical officer Ms. Teresita Espenilla (seated, extreme right), and (standing, from left) MABS deputy chief of party Meliza Agabin, RBAP corporate secretary Mark Ernest Rosario, RBAP treasurer Jobel Chua, MABS MIS specialist Nixon Mahilum, MABS MIS manager Anthony Petalcorin, and Globe Telecom Business Development Manager for M-Commerce Roy James Villanueva.

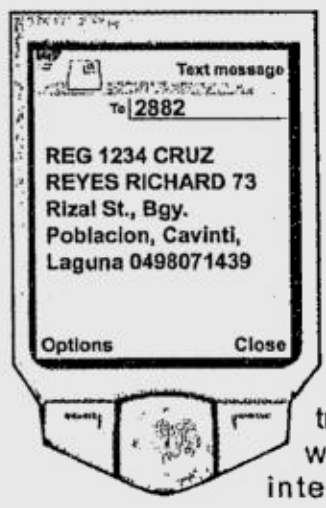
The real-time capabilities and transactional mobility of G-Cash present an alternative channel for micro-financing that is convenient and cost-efficient for both borrowers and rural banks alike. G-Cash is especially handy for small scale entrepreneurs, many of whom are directly involved in the daily operations of their businesses. "Paying my loan through G-Cash is so convenient for me! I no longer need to go to the bank because there is a G-Cash outlet right across the street," attests a microentrepreneur borrower of Green Bank of Caraga, one of RBAP's many member rural banks. Rural banks, on the other hand, are able to minimize collection costs and optimize resources from the automated G-Cash system.

After months of extensive pilot testing, RBAP Text-a-Payment will be available nationwide beginning November 2005. Rural banks interested in implementing the G-Cash microfinancing service may participate in the Trainor's Training series specially facilitated by G-Xchange, Inc. for rural bank employees. There will be 14 day-long seminars held nationwide, from San Fernando, La Union in the north, to the cities of Dipolog and Davao in the south. For registration and further inquiries, visit www.rbap.org or call the RBAP account officer at (02)5272968 to 69.

Getting started on

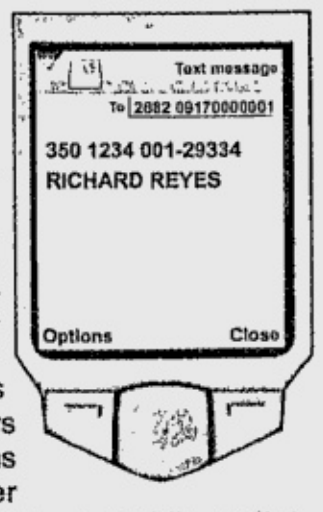
TEXT-A-PAYMENT

Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile subscribers can gain access to a variety of m-commerce services when they register for G-Cash, the country's first and only integrated mobile payments system. The service facilitates common commercial transactions like purchases and payments, prepaid phone reloading, phone-to-phone transfer of cash values, as well as domestic and international remittance.



To register, simply text "REG <desired 4-digit M-PIN>/<mother's maiden name>/< last name>/<first name>/<address>/<telephone number>" and send to 2882.

Registered G-Cash subscribers interested in paying their loan amortizations via G-Cash should proceed to any RBAP member bank, bringing a valid ID and mobile phone. S/he must then attend a Text-a-Payment orientation and agree to the service's terms and conditions. Subscribers may begin paying their loans as soon as they transfer cash values to their G-Cash mobile wallet.



For mobile monthly amortization payments, text "<Amount to be paid> <space> <4-digit M-PIN> <space> <Loan Account Number><space><Name>" to 2882+bank's 10-digit mobile phone number.

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NDC to venture into passenger, cargo shipping

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT ARM IS venturing into passenger and cargo shipping business to support the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH), Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said yesterday.

Favila said National Development Co. was planning to service the so-called missionary routes or those considered less profitable.

Favila, who is also chair of NDC, said the agency expected to realize the project through a P1-billion funding facility from the Development Bank of the Philippines' domestic shipping modernization program.

"NDC's subsidiary Maritime Equity Corp. (NMEC) will engage in ship leasing under a long-term business plan that the NDC board recently approved," Favila said.

He explained that NDC would finance roll-on roll-off and other vessels to help in refleeting and modernizing the domestic shipping industry, which is projected to need 2,305 vessels in the next 10 years.

NDC's business plan includes the purchase of vessels other than Ro-ro, such as tankers, to make sure that the risks are spread while building up higher-earning assets.

"NMEC is open to tie up with experienced and reputable foreign ship leasing companies," Favila said.

He added that the 2005-2010 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan provides for the priority development of the Roro system through the establishment of the SRNH that link the country's islands.

Also, Favila said NDC was venturing in business process outsourcing by putting in equity in THI Document Masters, a joint venture

NDC/B10

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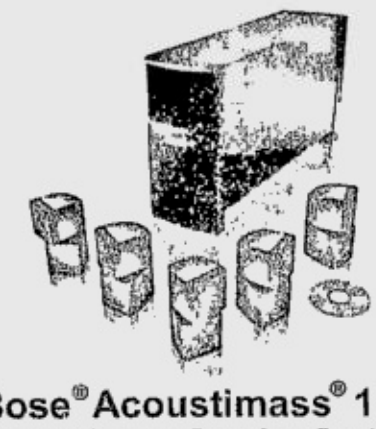

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Who can join

1. The band competition is open strictly to CCAP members only.
2. All band members must be employed regardless of position at least six months by a CCAP member call center. This will be certified by the CCAP Executive Director.
3. The band must consist of at least five members and a maximum of eight members.
4. Only one band can represent each CCAP member call center.
5. The call center band must not have entered into any recording contract.

Elimination round - November 2005

1. CCAP member call centers can do an elimination round within their call center and choose one band representative.
2. Each band will perform five one cover song.
3. Total playing time is a maximum of 8 minutes.
4. Playing order will be determined by a draw on the day of elimination.
5. A panel of judges will determine the top 10 finalists.

Grand finals - December 2005

1. Only the top 10 finalists can participate in the grand finals.
2. Each band will perform five two songs (cover or original) or even a medley of songs.
3. Total playing time is a maximum of 14 minutes.
4. Playing order will be determined by a draw on the day of elimination.
5. A panel of judges will determine the winners.

Prizes
Grand prize: P150,000 in cash and in kind
2nd Prize: P50,000 cash
3rd Prize: P30,000 cash

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PFIZER LAUNCHES "SULIT NA GAMOT" CAMPAIGN

Most medicines have proven to save lives and improve the quality of life of people everywhere. However, because of the difficult economic situation, the tendency is to focus too much on the cost of medicines rather than the cost of disease. Equally important to consider is the cost of disease. Disease results to absences from work, loss of productivity and complications lead to more expenses. The cost of disease needs to be considered to realize the real value of treatment of disease. Balancing these two important issues, it is important to focus on proven effective, efficient and safe drugs so that patients and health care system in general can maximize the value of their limited resources.

It is important for everyone to know that WELL RESEARCHED medicines WITH PROVEN EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY in fact help to reduce costly hospitalizations, loss of productivity, and the disruptions in our daily lives. When faced with life-threatening conditions, many of us would opt to be given the best cure possible. Life is too precious and that is the reason why the best medicines are always what we would prefer for ourselves and our loved ones. It is always best to consult your doctor and not to rely on others, or one's self, who are not the authority on the treatment and management of disease.

In a recent medical symposium, Pfizer shared the long and arduous process to develop medicines. From discovery where as many as 7 million compounds are screened to exploratory development and full development, where only 1-2 products get approval, taking 10-15 years and US$800 million to develop a single medicine. It is because of the research of companies such as Pfizer that generic medicines are available today. After the patent of a product expires, generic companies are free to copy the formula of the innovator companies, without need for investment on research and development on their part.

For Pfizer, the research does not stop once the product is made available to patients. Clinical trials are conducted to ensure that the medicines are safe even with prolonged use as well as to discover how these can provide more benefits to patients. Pfizer, together with physicians, medical organizations and academic institutions, conduct Outcomes Research studies to make sure that medicines are used rationally, thus making the medicines more cost-effective for patients in the long run.

Taking medicines that safely and effectively treat high cholesterol, for example, may spare you the risk of having to undergo costly bypass surgery and/or post-stroke rehabilitation, not to mention the physical and emotional burden they present. A convenient, short-course, antibiotic treatment may be more effective to treat infections as it encourages compliance, reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance.

It is on this platform that Pfizer has launched its Sulit Na Gamot campaign. DAHIL MAHALAGA ANG BUHAY, ANG GAMOT DAPAT SULIT.

In photo are Dr. Felix Eduardo R. Punzalan, Head of the Cardiovascular Research Unit of the Section of Cardiology, Department of Medicine UP-PGH, and Dr. Agnes Estrella - Garcia, Vice-President, Philippine Association for Renal Health, discussing the value of research and development during a medical symposium held in September.

In photo is Dr. Ma. Rosario Cruz Sevilla, Chief of the Section of Cardiology at the UPHMC who shared the value of outcomes research and health economics during the medical symposium held in September

In photo is Dr. William Chua, Past President of the St. Luke's Heart Institute, sharing the value of outcomes research and health economics to their peers during a medical symposium held in September.

Celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary was just icing on the cake.

Dahil sa alaga ni Doktor at sa mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, he can live longer and more fruitfully, despite his heart disease.

For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitfully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

Dapat Sulit.

Pfizer

BIR drops capital gains tax rule on arranged stock transactions

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE HAS withdrawn a recent rule imposing a capital gains tax of 5-10 percent on arranged stock transactions coursed through the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The decision of the BIR came amid complaints from stockbrokers, who saw the ruling as a hindrance to the development of the local stock market.

"After due consideration of the concerns put forward by the industry ... Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 43-2005 is hereby revoked with finality," Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said in a memo signed last week.

Under the revoked revenue memorandum order issued last Aug. 30, arranged stock transactions traded through the PSE are subject to a capital gains tax of 5 percent for the first P100,000, and 10 percent for the exceeding amount.

Transactions at the PSE are normally charged a stock transaction tax of only one-half of 1 percent.

Under the Tax Code, only stock transactions done outside the PSE are charged a capital gains tax of 5-10 percent.

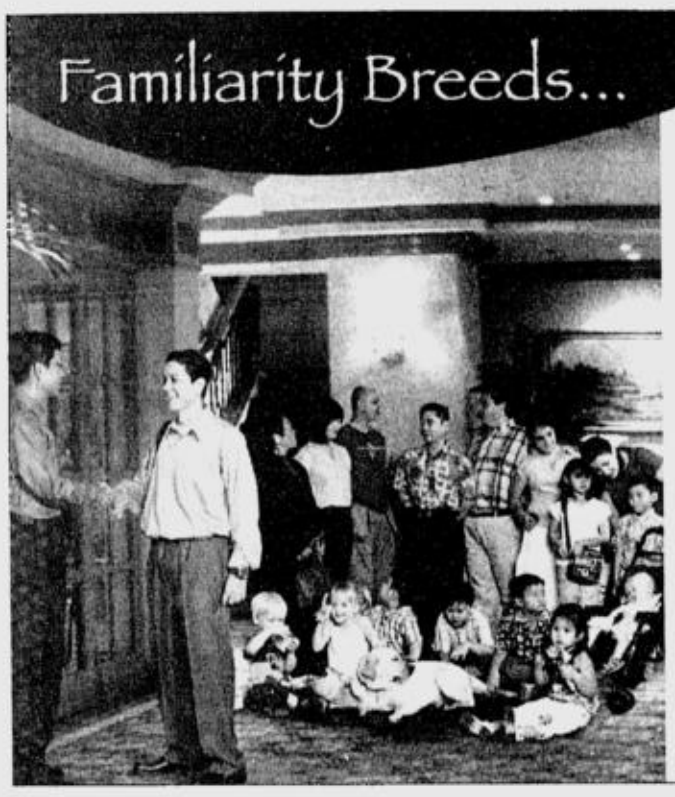
But the BIR earlier decided to subject arranged stock transactions to the 5-10 percent capital gains tax, arguing that their being arranged before trading at the PSE makes them liable to higher tax rates.

Among the recent arranged, block sale transactions coursed through the PSE were the increase in the stake of tycoon Lucio Tan in the Philippine National Bank (PNB) from 45 percent to 77 percent, which was worth more than P8 billion; Henry Sy's acquisition of the the 25-percent interest of Antonio Go in Equitable PCIBank for P10.2 billion, and the increase in Sy's stake in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. for about P9 billion.

Other transactions this year included the acquisition by Bank of the Philippine Islands of Prudential Bank valued at P5.6 billion, and the increase in the stake of Kirin Brewery Co. of Japan in San Miguel to 20 percent from 16 percent, which was worth P8.88 billion.

The clamor against the tax ruling forced the BIR to temporarily suspend RMC No. 43-2005, and later revoke it.

The revocation of RMC No. 43-2005 is formalized in RMC No. 56-2005 issued last Wednesday.



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Shares ...

From page B1

added tax reform even after the law on Tuesday was cleared by the Supreme Court, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 9.67 points to 1,944.62 after trading between 1,942.24 and 1,958.28. Volume was 380.24 million shares valued at P951.65 million ($16.99 million).

The broader all-shares index retreated 3.84 points to 1,181,80.

Losers led gainers 38 to 32, with 46 stocks unchanged.

AFP

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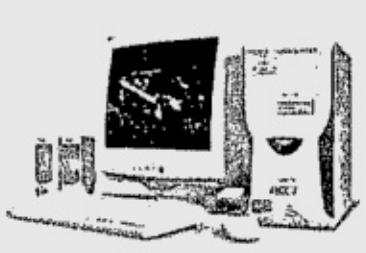

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Advance Microsystems 635-4181 •Advance Solutions 524-7704 •Ayala Systems Technology, Inc. 813-2494 •Columbia Technologies 524-0393 •PC Tech 892-1550 •Prince Technologies 729-3757
Acer Retail Partners:
METRO MANILA Accent Micro 816-1803 Complink 687-3160/65 Electroworld 813-6154 Silicon Valley 371-6068 Villman Computer Systems 892-2222
PROVINCIAL Bacolod Business Computing Group (BCG) (034) 434-2539 Baguio Exponent Enterprises (074) 619-9793 Dagupan Chimes Enterprises (075) 523-6974 Davao Columbia Computer (082) 222-1808 La Union PC4Me (072)700-2249
Tarlac Benerson Enterprises (045)982-8273
Acer Valued Partners: Accecon Systems (045)982-7924 Brain Computer 724-7629 CBX Corporation (032)231-4369 Compuadd 411-5046 Computrends 811-1548 Dataview 926-6817 Enigma Technologies (045)089-1994 Fastlink 724-6788 Firmlinx 531 5166 Literate Computer (049)808 3679 Infonet Computer 725 2889 Infonet Solution (032)254 9851 Infopro 721 5250 Micronics (075)522 1688 Microlmage Int'l Corp 840 4050/51 MicroPacific Technologies & Systems Corp 850 4563 Microphase 812-8814 Microstation 637 1473 Net Trekker 850-5862 Northgate 844-6477 NT Computer 634-4347 Octagon Computer Superstore 635-9080 Pacific Office Machine 722-6978 Sansui Computer Systems 912-3426 Speed Computer (075)564-5883 TCA 6342437/8106766 Tetra Technologies 897-1394 Value Systems Phils 338-1818

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 20, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31.5	31	31.5	2,381,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	51	50	50.5	1,051,100
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	160
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	50,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48.5	48.5	48	48	102,700
International Exch. Bank	18.75	19	18.75	19	271,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	26.5	26.5	185,400
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	2,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	3,500
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	16,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	23,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	2875	2875	2875	2875	600
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2035	2035	2020	2025	1,210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	14	14	27,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.89	0.89	1,790,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	725	715	715	11,030
Ipeople Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	98,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	51,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	175,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1665	1670	1660	1660	195,560
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	3,060,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	6,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	58,000
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	20.5	20.5	388,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	2,426,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	1,520,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	1	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	218,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.7	1,226,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.6	410,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	500,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	24,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	139,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35	34.5	34.5	92,800
Pancake House Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.65	2.75	511,000
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	26,300
San Miguel Corp. B	91	92.5	91	92	14,200
Universal Robina Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	12,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	160,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	9,000,000
Ayala Corp.	292.5	292.5	287.5	290	92,240
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.42	0.46	0.42	0.46	320,000
Abolitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	250,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	560,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	2,780,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1	0.99	1	1,140,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	250,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	320,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3	167,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	770,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5	4.9	4.95	916,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43.5	44	43.5	43.5	780,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	700,000
Ionics Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.15	3.95	3.95	905,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.38	611,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,280,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	15,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	60,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.22	96,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	960,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	221	220	220	155,360
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,500,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	20,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.89	150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.83	0.78	0.78	2,780,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1,202,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14	14	14	14	20,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	22,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.9	7,523,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	3,800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	620,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	4,150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	1,137,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	2,230,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	505,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	5,263,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	47,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	25,244,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.22	8,360,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.235	0.235	3,870,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	100,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	59,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.99	1	0.97	0.97	2,760,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.2	1.22	1.16	1.18	14,659,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	330,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.24	0.245	0.23	0.23	1,430,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	300,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	8,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	400,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	12,000

DISCLOSURES

MEDCO Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 25, 10 a.m., at Mahogany Room, Mandarin Oriental, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 26 will be entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

***

MRC Allied Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec 19, 8 a.m., at McKinley Room, Manila Polo Club, Makati City.

***

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 14, 4 p.m., at the Antonio Delas Alas Executive Dining Hall, 47th Floor Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave. cor. Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 12 will be entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

***

ROXAS Holdings Inc. purchased 50,000 of its common shares at P1.20 a share under its share buy-back program.

***

PRIME Media Holdings Inc. sold its 30,000 common shares of stock in Producers Venture Capital Corp. in favor of National Development Corp.

Compiled by Chona Galang, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

October 20, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.833542	1.000000	55.7590
Japan	Yen	0.007228	0.008672	0.4835
United Kingdom	Pound	1.472035	1.766000	98.4704
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107434	0.128888	7.1867
Switzerland	Franc	0.644109	0.772738	43.0871
Canada	Dollar	0.709276	0.850919	47.4464
Singapore	Dollar	0.492637	0.591017	32.9545
Australia	Dollar	0.625219	0.750075	41.8234
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.211279	2.652872	147.9215
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222248	0.266631	14.8671
Brunei	Dollar	0.491185	0.589275	32.8574
Indonesia	Ruplah	0.000083	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020360	0.024426	1.3620
UAE	Dirham	0.226956	0.272279	15.1820
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.199700	66.8941
Argentina	Peso	0.280418	0.336417	18.7583
Brazil	Real	0.370397	0.444365	24.7773
Denmark	Kroner	0.133995	0.160754	8.9635
India	Rupee	0.018482	0.022173	1.2363
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220923	0.265041	14.7784
Mexico	New Peso	0.076863	0.092213	5.1417
New Zealand	Dollar	0.581798	0.697983	38.9188
Norway	Kroner	0.128320	0.163946	8.5839
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013967	0.016756	0.9343
South Africa	Rand	0.126643	0.151934	8.4717
Korea	Won	0.000790	0.000948	0.0529
Sweden	Kroner	0.105870	0.127012	7.0821
Syria	Pound	0.016057	0.019264	1.0741
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024780	0.029728	1.6576
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000388	0.000466	0.0260

Billionaire's secrets

TAIPAN JOHN GOKONGWEI felt like a movie star Wednesday night when he was besieged by autograph-seekers and instant paparazzi from, of all people, young and aspiring taipans themselves.

The JG Summit helmsman was the guest of the Anvil Business Club, aka the club where his son Lance met his then future wife, for the high-net-worth networking. Rather than deliver a speech, Mr. John, animated by three shots of scotch, gamely took questions from the adoring audience sitting down.

Here are some of the billionaire's newer revelations:

- To ensure family and corporate empire succession, the 79-year-old taipan is bequeathing 51 percent ownership of JG Summit Group to his only son, Lance.

Mr. John in jest said he took the advice of the evening's host, insurance magnate/Porsche/Audi dealer Robert Coyiuto Jr., whose father's family was riven by succession and diversification problems after each sibling had been given his respective and equal share in the family fortune.

- Demand for his Universal Robina's C2 green tea drink has overwhelmed supply that the Calamba factory, already operating 24/7, will add five more production lines, which should be fully operational by the first week of November.
- He is not a great believer in feng shui, but instead believes in dedication, hard work, knowledge of the market, timing, access to cheap financing and, of course, luck, as the keys to success.
- He does not believe in buying for himself life insurance policies. To keep himself fit despite his hearty appetite, Mr. John works the treadmill and does 20 laps a day in his private swimming pool.
- JG Summit Group allocates P50 million to P60 million annually for charity projects, which it quietly distributes among select recipients.

Despite being a La Sallite, Mr. John made a headline-making donation to Ateneo business school some years ago in grateful appreciation for the Jesuit education of Lance and Mr. John's nephews and nieces.

"Besides, they (Ateneo) asked for it," the taipan said.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

- His more memorable business failures include Presto ice cream and computer boards, and, this the taipan forgot, Robina (named after his eldest daughter, not the other way around) dressed and cooked chicken.

Still, Robina Farms is very much around, supplying day-old chicks and veterinary supplies and medicines.

- Local manufacturing will remain uncompetitive unless the government succeeds in bringing down power costs and interest rates. Because of these factors, JG Summit is now the lone surviving petrochemical player and, of the dozens of the 60s and 70s-era textile millers, the lone textile manufacturer in the country.
- Despite his aversion to politics, Mr. John did manage to slip, and told the young businessmen that the government and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should be supported. Privately, he has been heard telling friends that his businesses are relatively doing well, despite the daily barrage of toxic talk from politicians-NGOs and negative news from the media.
- And, for fellow collectors of celebrity trivia, Mr. John now uses a Lexus LX 470 for his daily transport. Among the recent books he has read is "The World is Flat" by New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman.

There are many other interesting life lessons and business morsels that the taipan served during that evening. They will all be available in a biography that Anvil president and columnist Wilson Lee-Flores is preparing in time for Mr. John's 80th birthday next year.

Tiangge wars

THE Ortigas district is today formally firing the shot hopefully to be heard around the shopaholic world to challenge Greenhills as the *tiangge* (flea market) capital.

Saint Francis Square, an air-conditioned mall, will open its doors to shoppers today, and it hopes its lower rent (P25,000 a month for a four-square-meter stall versus P30,000 in Greenhills) would translate to cheaper retail prices.

According to the grapevine, 150 jewelry (pearl, gold, silver and fashion accessories) stallholders and 320 RTW merchants, mainly from Greenhills, have fully leased spaces in their respective sections in the new 2,000-stall flea market.

In addition to free cell phone vouchers it would release to the sky through balloons, Saint Francis Square is also unveiling today what arguably is the world's biggest lighted billboard, a 96-meter by 27-meter structure mounted from the 23rd to the 52nd floor of adjoining St. Francis Square Twin Towers condo—very visible on EDSA beside Megamall.

If these marketing tactics bring the desired effects, then the St. Francis Square developer, Luke Roxas of ASB Realty, would be restored to his pre-1997 fighting form. But that is another story.

Heard through the grapevine

DESPITE its multibillion- peso actuarial reserve liabilities, College Assurance Plan advanced P171 million last year and an additional P169 million a year earlier to an affiliate, Warbird Security Services, a security agency headed by Jose Montoya, said to be a retired Marcos-era Metrocom general.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Neda: Minimum wage setting should be kept

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority (Neda) said the setting of minimum wages per region should be kept, to protect purchasing power of the public.

Neda Director General Augusto Santos said it was necessary to preserve the people's purchasing power if the country were to achieve its economic growth targets.

"Workers with sufficient purchasing power supply the effective demand, the mass market for the products and services of firms," Santos said in a statement.

He said that the setting of minimum wages was a social policy measure for unskilled adult workers entering the workforce for the first time. he added that the measure would also shield unskilled workers from exploitation.

The country's chief economist made the statement following the National Tripartite Policy Conference on Wages and Productivity held last Oct. 4.

Santos urged officials of the Regional Wage Boards to take into consideration the factor of promoting improved productivity among laborers in setting minimum wages in various regions of the country.

But Santos stressed the importance of striking a balance between the interest of employers and employees in the setting of minimum wages. While wages should be encouraging to laborers to increase productivity, it should not be set at a level that would force employers to cut down their workforce.

The highest minimum daily wage covers workers in the National Capital Region, where the amount is set at P288 to P325. The lowest minimum wage covers workers in the Autonomous Regions for Muslim Mindanao at P180.

Bangko Sentral . . . From page B1

This meant that runaway oil prices were likewise creating demand for higher wages, resulting in second-round inflationary pressures.

The government hoped to contain inflation rate at 5-6 percent this year, 4-5 percent next year and 3-4 percent by 2007. But it recently conceded that these targets could be breached.

Another concern, the BSP chief said, was the continued rapid growth in domestic liquidity despite previous increases in overnight rates and the reserve requirements.

He noted that the financial system was teeming with cash due to foreign exchange inflows and the deposit generation activities of banks.

"The move seems to be a preemptive response to rising inflation and the expected impact of the expanded value added tax (VAT)," Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said. "It was also in anticipation of a 25-basis-point hike in the US Federal Reserve on November." *With a report from Reuters*

RP working hard . . . From page B1

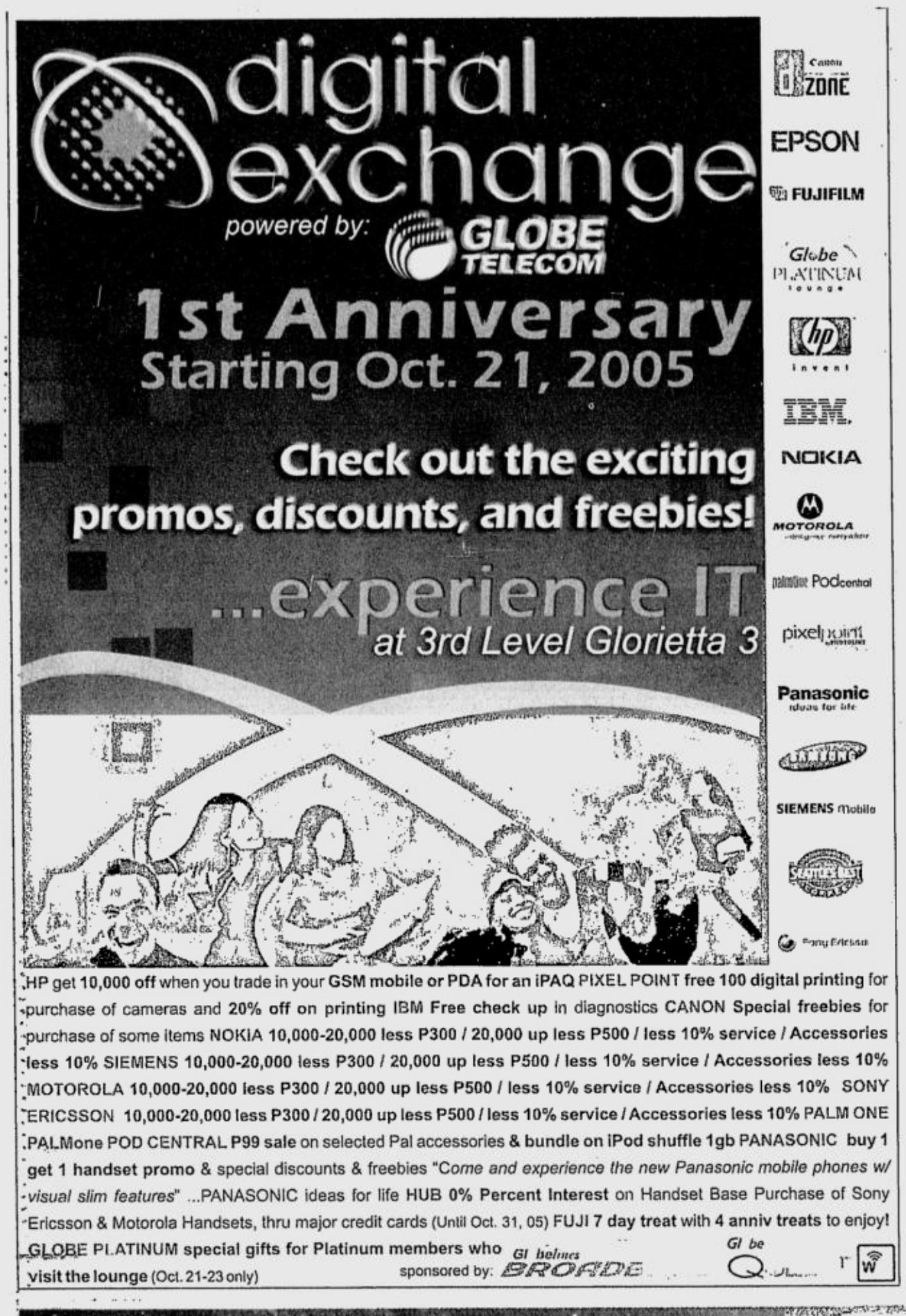
sanctions. There are 15 PWL countries in the 2004 report, including India, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan and Taiwan.

Cristobal said the government had achieved milestones in its fight against piracy and counterfeiting of patented and trademarked products.

"In terms of enforcement efforts, various agencies have seized P1.05 billion worth of counterfeit products in the first nine months of 2005," he said. "This surpasses the P900-million haul for 2004."

Cristobal said the increased value of confiscated items was due to the capture of capital equipment like replicating machines for optical media discs.

"These machines cost hundreds of millions of pesos and seizing them is more significant than simply taking end products," he said.



From invisible to visible

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

COMMENTARY

LAST WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19, 150 RURAL women leaders from 50 provinces came together to plan their priority actions in the coming year for a largely invisible group. This was the second annual conference of the Pambansang Kongreso ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK) or Rural Women's Congress. During that meeting, they affirmed the PKKK Meeting Declaration they made last year: "The difficulties of rural women are due to problems such as rapid agricultural liberalization, our continued lack of access and control of our land and natural resources, inadequate agricultural support services, and no voice of the small farmers and fisherfolk in decisions related to rural development."

Background

In 2003, the Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI), decided to make gender mainstreaming a priority thrust in its plans and programs. Looking at the rural landscape, the PPI saw that there was a largely "invisible" sector.

Rural women constitute half of our 60-percent rural population. But they are often ignored and marginalized. Even when farmer and fisherfolk concerns are discussed, they are rarely consulted and their unique concerns neither identified nor addressed.

PPI's Daryl Layesa, who is now PKKK Secretary General said: "We went to several rural communities, even in remote rural areas, to find out what the rural women's concerns were. They said they felt neglected and powerless. The PPI then met them in small groups and identified their concerns, resulting in a corresponding common agenda."

PPI executive director Omi Royondoyan said: "The rural women leaders were not satisfied with just agreeing on common points. They wanted to organize a force that would make visible their largely ignored and marginalized sector."

Thus was born the PKKK, which had its first national conference in October 2003. It has since established chapters in more than 30 provinces today.

Main solution

A key issue that came up is that rural women are not recognized as a sector that should get significant support and services. The main solution proposed is that there should be a definition of rural women agreed upon by all government agencies. With this definition, they can then be identified and their concerns systematically addressed.

The same process had been done successfully with the informal sector, to which the rural women belong. In 2002, the informal sector suffered the same kind of invisibility. With the assistance of the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Development Program, and the Department of Labor and Employment, a definition was formulated and approved by the National Economic Development Authority. This enables the National Statistics Office to count the people in the sector, locate where they are, identify their contributions, and surface their concerns. From this information, the government can then be mandated to formulate and implement the corresponding responsive plans and programs.

In several areas, both the local government units and the relevant government agencies have initiated actions that have effectively addressed the informal sector's concerns. But even in those areas, the rural women were often ignored.

Using the same approach of getting an agreed definition, the success that the informal sector achieved can be duplicated by the rural women.

Other issues

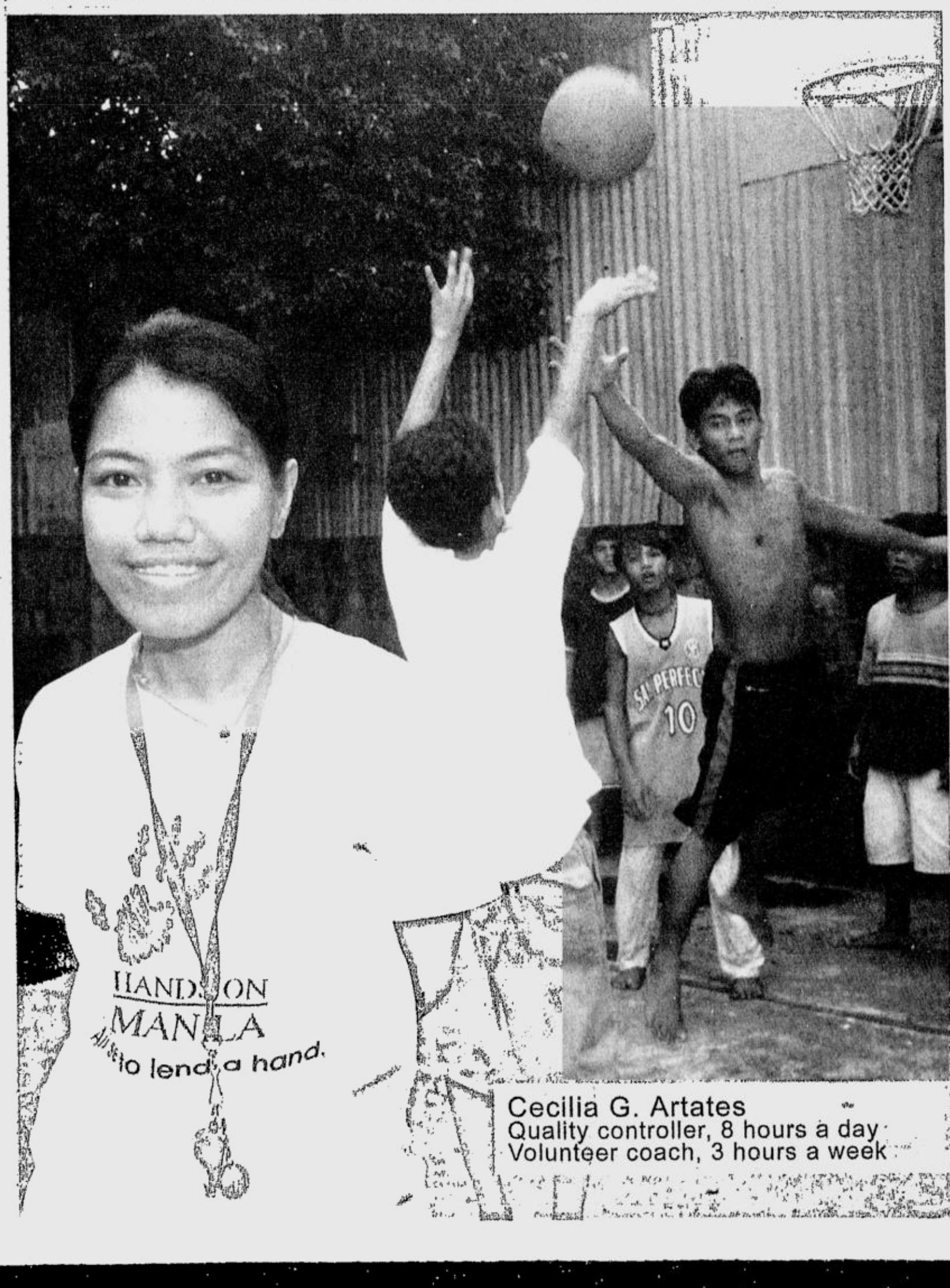
During the PKKK conference, several examples were given of rural women's issues that need attention.

Several conference participants asserted that rapid liberalization caused the loss of livelihoods and jobs. Mercy Fabros, head of Woman Health, said: "In addition to lower income, globalization has worsened the health problems of rural women, who are subjected to more stress and hardship."

Ambassador Rosario Manalo, chair of the United Nation's Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), said in her address: "Rural women should have the same opportunities as men in employment and livelihood opportunities. Besides, we are *magaling* (competent) and *maganda* (comely)." Several examples were given by the participants where men were favored over women in this area. Often, women were often paid less than the men for the same job.

Ginalyn Luaton, national convenor of Budyong, a national network of women in fishery said: "There is an unjust bias for men

FROM/B10



VIP DAY 2005
Volunteer In Person

Hands On Manila celebrates VIP Day 2005 with the homecoming of Volunteers on October 21, 2005, 6 to 9 PM at The Loft, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

All Hands On Manila Volunteers are invited.

Let us give a BIG HAND to...

HSBC

Philippine Daily Inquirer 20

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HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

For more information about Hands On Manila, call 843-7044 or 843-5231 or email us at homla@info.com.ph Visit us at www.handsonmla.org

Gov't interest payments down

By Michelle V. Remo

GOVERNMENT SPENDING FOR interest payments stood P7.285 billion lower than programmed.

This boosts the government's chance of posting a lower-than-expected budget deficit this year.

Data from the Bureau of Treasury showed that interest payments on government loans reached P235.288 billion in the first nine months of the year, lower than the ceiling of P242.573 billion.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the savings were brought about by the better-than-expected interest rate environment. He said interest rates imposed on the Philippine government's debts stood lower than programmed.

For instance, he said the government projected the bellwether 91-day Treasury bill to fetch a rate of 8.5 percent but the actual rate was only about 5.8 percent.

Interest payments on loans from domestic sources reached P141.582 billion, or P3.27 billion lower than the programmed P144.852 billion.

Interest payments on foreign obligations were also lower than expected, reaching only P93.706 billion in the first three quarters as against the assumption of P97.721 billion.

The favorable interest rate environment this year encouraged the government to pre-fund its 2006 borrowing requirements by selling $1 billion worth of sovereign bonds in the international market in September.

For this year, the government's foreign borrowing requirement was placed at $4 billion.

Data showed that for the full year of 2005, the programmed net borrowing of the government was placed at P215.684 billion from foreign and domestic creditors and investors.

But as of end-September, net borrowings already reached P257.572.

This means that as early as September, the government had already raised P41.9 billion more than it should for the entire year.

Cruz said the excess would be used to fund obligations maturing in 2006.

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PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week October 18, 2005 / Last Week October 11, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.28214 / 1.28057
Managed Fund - Peso	1.38474 / 1.38483
Growth Fund - Peso	1.03115 / 1.03375
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1483 / 1.1506

* Note. These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE	UNIT PRICES (In Php)	
Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	October 17, 2005	October 10, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.059697	1.058908
Balanced Fund	1.043282	1.042766
Equity Fund	1.005887	1.005972

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

PAL beefing up fleet

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES is expecting the delivery of three newly leased Airbus 320s this quarter.

This forms part of the airline's refleeting and fleet modernization program.

Under the plan, PAL will replace 13 of its narrow-bodied planes and add three more in the next two years.

The program will allow PAL greater flexibility in exploring new routes, its top official said.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said the first A-320 would be delivered on Oct. 31, another one in end-November and the last before Christmas.

Since November last year, PAL has so far received the delivery of three aircraft from Airbus, he said.

Bautista said PAL recently signed a lease agreement for two 150-seater Airbus 319s arriving in the fourth quarter of 2006.

The flag carrier has 30 existing aircraft for domestic and overseas operations.

PAL is planning to have an all-Airbus fleet by the end of 2009. Right now, it has six Airbus planes.

Bautista said having a single brand of aircraft would be more efficient and would give the company some savings. PAL has been profitable since last year but the surging prices of fuel have been increasing cost substantially.

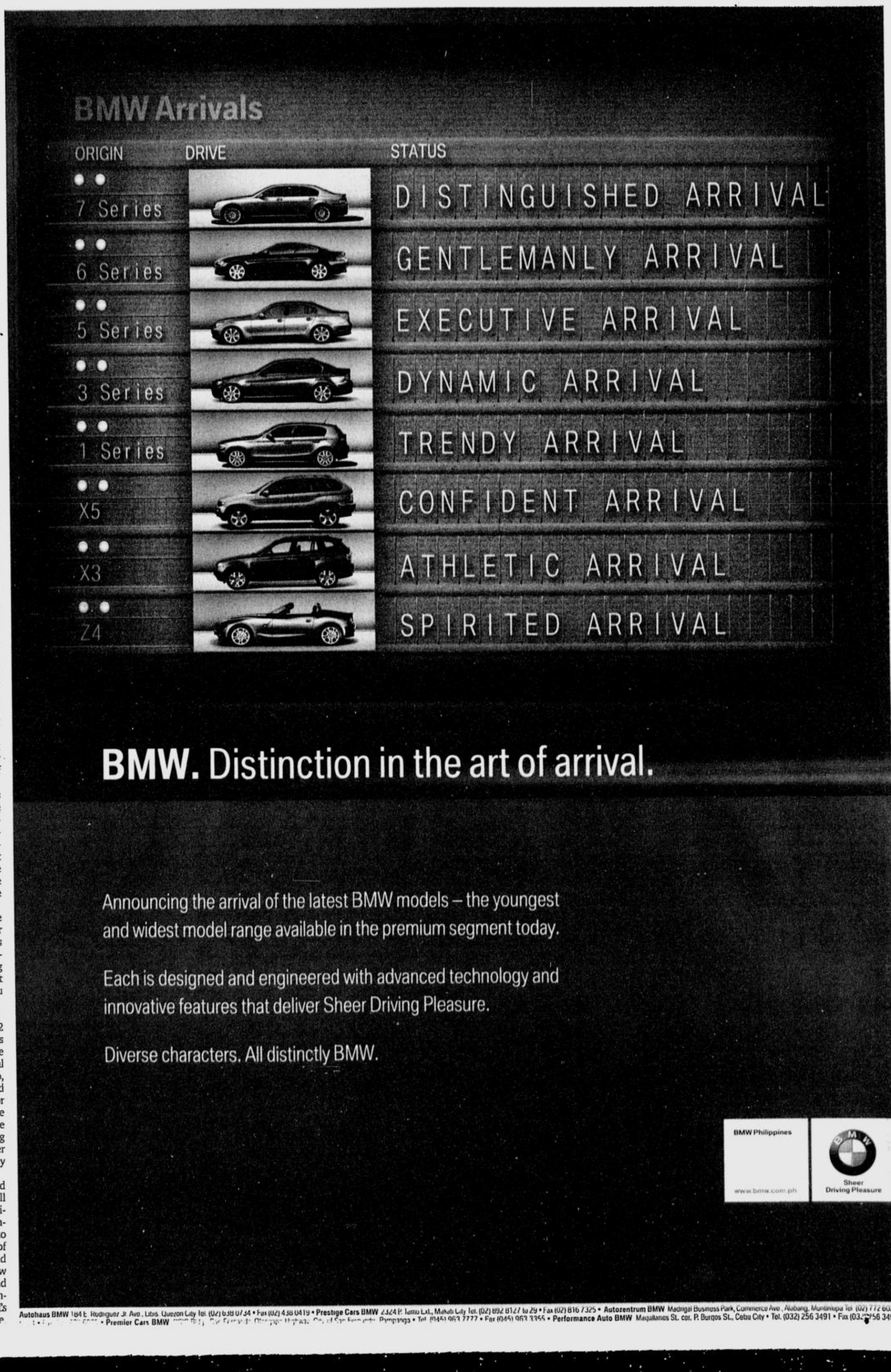
PAL is spending about $65 million for the modernization of its domestic fleet.

The amount covers the so-called spare parts provisioning required by the company renting out the aircraft to ensure that parts that have to be replaced during the term of the lease are already paid for.

PAL thought it wise to enter into five-year leasing agreements for the meantime instead of purchasing new planes like what its competitor Cebu Air Pacific did.

Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific bought 12 new Airbus 319 planes for $500 million. The second-largest local airline also leased two, new A-320's that it had started to use on major domestic routes like Cebu and Davao. The A-319s will be arriving between September this year and early 2007.

A refleeting, said PAL's top official, will boost the airline's efficiency so it could improve its service to customers. The use of newer planes, said Bautista, would allow a faster turnaround time that was essential in improving PAL's on-time performance



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"I will celebrate Your love forever, Yahweh..."
Psalms 89:1

Our Beloved

ONG CHIONG SY

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 18, 2005.

His wife
Isabel Roque Sy
His children
Romy (+) and **Carmelita**, **Ernie** and **Babie**, **Danny** and **Miroan**, **Nenita**, **Nato** and **Gloria**, **Sabsy**, and **Chito** and **Annie**, together with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, enjoin everyone to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz Chapel C (North), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

Funeral Mass at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, October 22, 2005.
Interment follows at the Holy Cross Cemetery, Novaliches, Quezon City.

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephone 8931320 ext. 5179 Fax 8401461

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites prospective Partners to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

MINERAL EXPLORATION/ASSESSMENT WORK IN THE ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY EXPLORATION PERMIT AREA UNDER EXPLORATION PERMIT NO. EXP - 002 - 97- IX - SECOND RENEWAL (EDC 05-174)

Prospective partners must meet these criteria:

1. Any Filipino citizen of legal age and with capacity to contract; or a corporation, partnership, association or cooperative organized or authorized for the purpose of engaging in mining with technical and financial capability to undertake mineral resources development and duly registered in accordance with law at least sixty percent (60%) of the capital of which is owned by Filipino citizens, provided, that a legally organized foreign-owned corporation (i.e. any corporation, partnership, association or cooperative duly registered in accordance with law in which less than fifty percent (50%) of the capital is owned by Filipino citizens) shall also be deemed eligible;
2. With a minimum authorized capital stock of Ten Million Philippine Pesos (PhP 10,000,000.00) and a minimum paid-up capital of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP 2,500,000.00);
3. With at least two (2) geologists having a minimum of five-year professional experience. The submission of curricula vitae and track records in mining operations and environmental management of the technical personnel who shall undertake the activities in the submitted Work Program shall be strictly required as a mandatory requirement; and
4. In case of a corporation, must declare and show proof that it is already a holder of an Exploration Permit (EP), Mineral Agreement (MA) or Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA).

The compliance of a corporation to criterion # 4 shall automatically establish its eligibility to bid for the subject project.

The Eligibility Documents shall be available for issuance to interested parties starting **October 20, 2005** from the PD-Contracts Administration Group / BAC Secretariat [c/o F. T. Tolibas (loc. 5179)] upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Five Hundred (PhP 500.00), or US Dollar Ten (US$ 10.00) in case of foreign bidders to defray courier expenses. The Bidding Documents shall be issued to eligible bidders on **December 1, 2005 10:00 A.M.** by the PD-Contracts Administration Group / BAC Secretariat [c/o F. T. Tolibas (loc. 5179)] upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine Peso Five Thousand (PhP 5,000.00), or US Dollar One Hundred Thirty (US$ 130.00) in case of foreign bidders to defray courier expenses.

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, interested parties are invited to a clarificatory meeting to be held on **October 27, 2005 10:00 A.M.** at the BAC Conference Room, Bldg. V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines. Site inspection will be held thereafter at the exploration site in Sibugay, Zamboanga, Philippines **(to be scheduled later)**.

Interested parties shall submit their respective Letter of Intent and sealed Application for Eligibility in three (3) sets to the PD-Contracts Administration Group / BAC Secretariat, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines not later than **5:00 P.M. on November 24, 2005**. The parties' Application for Eligibility will be evaluated and parties who are eligible to bid will be notified by PNOC-EDC.

Eligible parties shall then be required to submit their Financial Proposal in two separate sealed envelopes. All bids submitted by eligible parties must be accompanied by a bid security, callable on demand and valid for a period of One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days reckoned from the date of bid opening, for an amount of at least Philippine Peso One Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Eighty (PhP178,080.00), if in the form of cash, cashier's check / manager's check, or certified check; Philippine Peso Two Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty (PhP267,120.00), if in the form of a bank guarantee; or Philippine Peso Four Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Two Hundred (PhP445,200.00), if in the form of a surety bond. The bids must be delivered to:

Bids and Awards Committee
c/o PD-Contracts Administration Group / BAC Secretariat
PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines

At or before 2:00 P.M. on December 8, 2005. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representative who chose to attend.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders on the ground of PNOC-EDC's action.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 14 & 21, 2005)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PRYCE GASES, INC.** with office address at **17th Floor, Pryce Center, 1179 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Investment in Storage, Marketing and Distribution of Petroleum Products Additional 600 MT LPG Storage Tank under RA 8479 (Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act)** with project/plant site located at **Sogod, Cebu.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 21, 2005)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PRYCE GASES, INC.** with office address at **17th Floor, Pryce Center, 1179 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Investment in Storage, Marketing and Distribution of Petroleum Products Additional 500 MT LPG Storage Tank under RA 8479 (Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act)** with project/plant site located at **Balingasag, Misamis Oriental.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 21, 2005)

Women in politics - for gender justice

TEN YEARS AFTER THE UN FOURTH WORLD Conference on Women and 100 years of vibrant feminist movement in the Philippine - what have women really achieved? The book, "Gaining Ground? Southeast Asian Women in Politics and Decision-Making: Ten Years After Beijing" tells how women in government of five Southeast Asian countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines) have fared in their commitments towards achieving gender equality and genuine democracy in politics and decision-making. Have they really made a difference in attaining gender justice? Results of the case studies reveal that the expectations set during the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 have yet to be met and that women participation in these countries is still very low, despite some progress.

In commemoration of the Centennial Year of the Feminist Movement in the Phillippines, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, South East Asia Women Watch, Isis International-Manila and Miriam College launch "Gaining Ground" on Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m. at the Library Foyer of Miriam College, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City. Hon. Leticia Shahani, National Chair of Committee for the Centennial of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines will keynote the affair. The book launching of Gaining Ground takes place during an international conference on "Women Shaping Democracy: Progresssive Politics Ten Years After the World Conference on Women in Beijing" also on Oct. 24 at the Discovery Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, participated in by women politicians, academic experts and representatives of social movements from Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, India, Mongolia and Europe.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax. No. (02) 895-6322 Tels Nos. (02) 897-6682 (02) 890-1322

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **INTERWEB MEDIA CONECTION, INC.** with address at **Burgos St., Poblacion, Lila-an, Cebu** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O 226, as amended, as **New ICT Export Service Firm in the Field of Website Design and Development** at a capacity of **(not applicable)** and with proposed plant site at **(same as in above address)** has been officially accepted on 19th October 2005 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 19th day of October 2005.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI-Oct. 21, 2005)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PRYCE GASES, INC.** with office address at **17th Floor, Pryce Center, 1179 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Investment in Storage, Marketing and Distribution of Petroleum Products Additional 500 MT LPG Storage Tank under RA 8479 (Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act)** with project/plant site located at **Balingasag, Misamis Oriental.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 21, 2005)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that ALSAAD MANPOWER SERVICES, a single proprietorship, with office address at No. 1709 A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila represented by its General Manager, MS. LIBERTY SY LLACER, is applying for issuance of a license as a landbased recruitment agency, pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI-Oct. 21, 2005)

STC Manila Alumnae Recollection Day

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE ANNUAL STC Manila Alumnae Association's Recollection Day on Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCD) House of Studies, #77 4th Street, New Manila, Quezon City (corner Victoria). Recollection speaker will be Dr. Ted Valencia, CSB (Congregation of St. Basil, Toronto, Canada). For reservation, call Tess Abellon, STAA Office 740-1810 or email staamanila@yahoo.com

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"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

You are gone but for us you never left
God has you in his keeping
We have you in our hearts

So Dearly Remembered
on the 11th Death Anniversary of

ERNESTO RODIL REGIO

of Torrijos, Marinduque and Quezon City
Who joined his Creator on October 22, 1994.

Masses will be offered tomorrow, October 22, 2005 at the following churches.

Holy Cross Parish, *Sta.Cruz Marinduque*	*5:00 am*
Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, *Cubao Quezon City*	*5:30 am*
Paroquia ng San Ignacio De Loyola, *Torrijos, Marinduque*	*6:00 am*
Sacred Heart Parish, *Gloria Oriental Mindoro*	*6:30 am*
Mt. Carmel Shrine, *New Manila Quezon City*	*7:00 am*

The family requests the pious readers and those whose life he touched to say a prayer for his eternal rest.

God has you in His keeping; we have you in our hearts...

IN LOVING MEMORY
on the FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY of

HELEN P. LEGASPI

Born May 20, 1919 – Died October 21, 2004 of

SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA

Founder, Former Board Chairman & President
CENTRAL LUZON COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INC.
San Fernando, Pampanga and Olongapo City

Holy Masses will be offered on her first death anniversary on
October 21, 2005

at the following churches:

Metropolitan Cathedral of San Fernando, *(Pamp)*	From 5:30AM, 6:15 AM 7:00 AM, 7:45 AM 8:30 AM, 12:00 NN and 5:30 PM
Holy Rosary Parish, *Angeles City*	5:30 PM
Our Lady of Sorrows, *Dolores, San Fernando (Pamp)*	6:00 AM
San Agustin Parish, *San Agustin, San Fernando (Pamp)*	6:00 AM
St. Joseph Parish, *Olongapo City*	6:00 AM, 5:00 PM
Mary the Queen Parish, *Greenhills , San Juan*	6:00 AM
St. John Bosco Parish, *Makati City*	12:15 NN

Her beloved husband **MARIANO** (+), Children: **NICOMEDES** (+) and wife **Esperanza, MARIO** and wife **Delia, RENATO** and wife **Delia**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends would like to request readers to remember her in their prayers and wish to convey their sincere appreciation to all those who have in one way or the other kept her alive in their memories through the years.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

"I am the resurrection and the life,
He who believes in me will live,
even though he dies; and whoever lives
and believes in me will never die." **John 11:25-26**

CHARITO BURGOS DIAZ

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 17, 2005
at the age of 67.

Her bereaved husband **Ambassador Rudy Diaz** and daughter **Charlene**, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc., Parañaque City.

She will be brought to Bacolod City on Sunday, October 23, 2005. Funeral services will be held on October 25, 2005 at the Talisay City Cemetery (Negros Occidental).

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate;
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Susan Andaya

fashion designer and businesswoman

passed away on October 19 at past midnight, of heart failure at home at the age of 48.

She is survived by her daughters **Ellen, Tricia** and son **Armin**, parents **Elvira** and **Emiliano Andaya** of Canlubang, Laguna, sisters **Aba** and **Lit** (based in San Francisco, USA), **Apieh** and **Yoyet** (based in Japan) and brother **Jeff**.

Her wake is at Sta. Cecilia chapel 2, Lawaan St. Ceris 2, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, where spent her childhood in high school. Cremation will be today, Oct. 21, after a 10:00 am Mass, at the Loyola Creamatory Services Guadalupe, Makati City.

ROGATO T. ALINDOGAN

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 20, 2005 at the age of 91.

His bereaved children **Jaime** and **Dely, Bebot** and **Gloria, Thelma** and **Manuel Sumilang, Zenaida Teotico, Elizabeth** and **Manuel Cortes, Roberto (Bob)**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence at 16 Plaridel St., Caloocan City.

Cremation will take place on Sunday, October 23, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

CLASSIFIEDS

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SORSOGON
Capitol Compound, Sorsogon City, Philippines
Tel # (056) 211-5400 Fax # (056) 211-1929
Email: almac_bac@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-BID)

The Department of Education, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Supply and Delivery of Elementary Table & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs CY 2004 & 2005
Location		Various Schools in Sorsogon Division
Brief Description		Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
	Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs – CY 2004	P 2,052,000.00
	Lot B : Secondary Armchairs – CY 2004	1,115,950.00
	Lot C : Elementary Tables & Chairs – CY 2005	5,846,400.00
	Lot D : Secondary Armchairs – CY 2005	2,516,500.00
ABC & Funding Source		Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2004 and 2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% allocation)
Contract Duration		120 calendar days from the date of Acceptance of Notice to Proceed
Delivery Sites		"Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The DepED Division of Sorsogon will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on November 2, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at the DepED, D. O. Conference Hall, Sorsogon City.

Bids must be received on or before November 14, 2005, 10:00 A.M. at the Divison Office. Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) per lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00) to the Division Office Cashier.

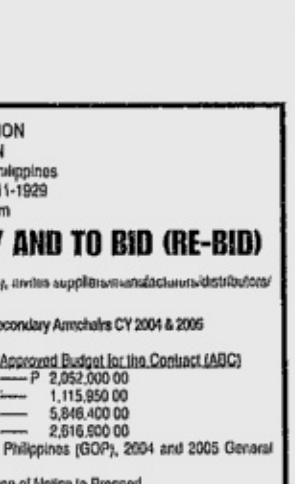
The *DepED Division of Sorsogon* BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) VIRGILIO S. REAL
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Oct 21 & 27, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that there is an outstanding warrant of arrest for **Mr. Carlo B. Quirong** of Morrera St., Guinobatan, Albay, whose picture appears herewith, that was issued by Branch 2, Regional Trial Court of Legazpi City in Criminal Case No. 10649 for Qualified Theft.



Please direct any information leading to his arrest or whereabouts to:

MR. FRANCISCO BACIERTO, JR.
Equitable PCI Tower 1 corner
dela Costa and Makati Avenue,
Makati City
Tel. nos. 878-4425 or 840-7625

(PDI-October 21, 2005)

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E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

TWO (2) YEAR CONTRACT FOR SECURITY SERVICES

To provide security services at the SSS Main Office Building, NCR branch offices and other designated sites.

1. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*, through the 2005 Approved Budget for M/R Building - Security Services intends to apply the sum of the following being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Security Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Lot I	-	P 53,925,298.56
Lot II	-	P 46,260,769.12
Lot III	-	P 20,073,715.20

2. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for a Two (2) year Contract for Security Service to be rendered at various SSS buildings, branches and properties mentioned below. Delivery of the GOODS is required for the period February 02, 2006 to February 01, 2008. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Lot No.	Area Description	No. of Guards
I	Main Office Building, MAC Building & East Triangle Property and Livelihood Trade Center	116
II	National Capital Region (NCR) Branches	90
III	SSS Properties (Sarmiento Building, Urdaneta, Roxas Boulevard, Bagbag, Business Recovery Center (BRC), Vacphil)	42

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The three (3) highest ranked bidders shall advance to the post-qualification stage.

   The Contract shall be awarded to the three (3) bidders with the highest rank and responsive bid.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee based on the highest ABC among the lot where the bidder intends to participate as follows:

Lot I	-	P50,000.00
Lot II	-	P20,000.00
Lot III	-	P20,000.00

   The method of payment will be on a cash basis or Manager's Check / Cashier's Check payable to the Social Security System at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg. Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 11, 2005 at 2:30p.m. at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on December 09, 2005 not later than 2:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in Cash or Manager's / Cashier's check payable to the Social Security System amounting to 1% of the highest ABC the Bidder intends to participate in or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on December 09, 2005 at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.

9. The *SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991, 924-7300, 920-6401 local 5191
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7300

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – October 21, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

October 17, 2005
BCMD-p05-

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Supply, Delivery, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) Complete Relay Test Facility (RTF) at the System Operations Building, National Transmission Corporation, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines (BCMD 2005-15)

The scope of work shall include the supply, delivery, testing and commissioning of the complete Relay Test Facility (RTF) consist of waveform generator, waveforms amplifiers, digital-to-analogue converters, current and voltage amplifiers for real-time testing of equipment like relays, protection scheme or control system; recorders and data processing equipment for analysis. The RTF shall be accessible to workstations connected in a Local Area Network (LAN) with TCP/IP protocol.

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the Corporate Budget of 2005 intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS FORTY-EIGHT MILLION THREE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND (PHP 48,310,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply, Delivery, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) Complete Relay Test Facility (RTF). **Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.**
2. TransCo now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply, Delivery, Testing and Commissioning of One (1) Complete Relay Test Facility (RTF) at the System Operations Building, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. The duration of the contract is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TEN THOUSAND (PHP 10,000.00).** The method of payment will be on **cash basis only.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **November 21, 2005, 1:30 P.M.** at W. Dela Paz Conference Room, Power Training Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address on or before **December 5, 2005, 10:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Clause 22, Section III, Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **December 5, 2005, 10:00 A.M.** at W. Dela Paz Conference Room, Power Training Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. The bidding is also open to foreign bidders with eligibility requirements described in Clause 3 above and in the Bidding Documents.
10. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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Manager Bids & Contracts Management Division
Ground Floor, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation
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(PDI – October 21 & 30, 2005)

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Lawsuits block efforts to lower drug prices

Compulsory licensing seen as cure

By Ronnel W. Domingo

COURT INJUNCTIONS THAT BAR NON-patent-holding pharmaceutical firms to make commonly used medicines provide a big hindrance to making drugs more affordable in the country, according to a Washington DC-based expert on intellectual property.

James Love, director of Consumer Project on Technology (CPTech), said in a press briefing that compulsory licensing for the manufacturing of patented drugs should be made more available to lower the prices of urgently needed medicines.

CPTech, which also has offices in Geneva and London, is a non-government organization whose work is focused on intellectual property issues, especially those that are related to public health and access to knowledge.

Compulsory licensing refers to a scheme where patent holders are compelled to allow competitors to make their products for a fee in the form of royalty.

"This has been done in South Africa at times when medicines are priced so high that (sick people) could not afford them," Love said. "There are also similar experiences in the United States."

Love added that compulsory licensing was still too rare in the world and that making it happen was one of CPTech's advocacy.

Love is one of the resource persons in the two-day 1st Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health Forum held at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City, which would wrap up today.

The forum is a joint effort of the Intellection Property Office, Department of Health, Philippine Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry, with the help of the World Health Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

IPO director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said at least four applications for compulsory licensing were filed in the past seven years-all of which were prevented by court-issued injunctions or restraining orders.

"Whether our laws are adequate to strike a balance between giving incentives to researchers and investors and public health interest would be one of the important issues that would be discussed in the forum." Cristobal said.

"From there, we can determine what efforts to adopt to make our patent system work for public health interest," he said.

Cristobal explained that patents are issued as an incentive to investors to pursue research and product development through a temporary monopoly that lasts 20 years.

In a related development, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the National Development Co. was investing P100 million in PITC Pharma Inc., in an effort to bring down prices of medicines.

PITC Pharma would undertake the pharmaceutical operations of the Philippine International Trading Corp., especially the marketing and distribution of medicines.

Favila said NDC's investment consisted of P15 million in PITC Pharma common shares and P85 million in convertible bonds for working capital.

"This move is consistent with Executive Order No. 442, which aims at reducing by half the cost of medicines through various means like importation through PITC.

The government has a goal of putting up by 2010 a nationwide network of 3,000 privately operate retail drug outlets that offer medicines at affordable prices.

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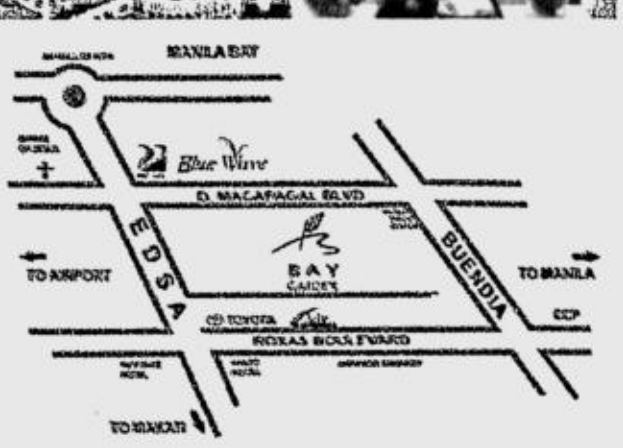

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GOINGS ON

2nd Cebu Pacific Airbus319

CEBU PACIFIC will take delivery of its second brand-new Airbus A319 aircraft on Oct. 24, 2005 from Hamburg, Germany. The aircraft will be used on the airline's domestic and regional routes.

The first A319 was delivered last September.

Bong Mojica, CEB general manager, said the A319 would allow the airline to continue offering its trademark value fares since it burns less fuel while carrying more passengers and cargo.

The airline will take delivery of two more A319s this December and eight more through 2006 until early 2007 for its complete re-fleeting program aimed at expanding domestic and regional operations.

CEB now uses three brand-new aircraft to service its routes. Its two A320s delivered last May and June service the Davao and Cebu routes, while the first A319 aircraft, delivered last month, is being utilized forCagayan de Oro, and soon, for Hong Kong routes.

SM opens 21st mall

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC (SMPH) introduces a new concept in one-stop shopping with the opening of its 21st mall on Oct. 28 in Valenzuela.

SM Supercenter Valenzuela is located along McArthur Highway in Barangay Karuhatan, Valenzuela. It is a 15-minute drive from Monumento. The 70,000-square meter SM Supercenter Valenzuela is architecturally designed as a compact yet freeform mall. Its curvilinear interior will offer shoppers a wide variety of retail, dining, and entertainment choices on all three levels.

The center includes an SM Hypermarket, as the anchor tenant, offering residents of Valenzuela and nearby areas convenient one-stop shopping. SM mainstays like Ace Hardware, Jollibee, KFC, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, National Bookstore, Watsons, Surplus Shop and SM Appliance Center are among the major tenants.

The mall has a food court and a restaurant strip on the ground floor. Fashion boutiques, bookstores, and novelty shops occupy all three levels. There are also four large cinemas on the 3rd level, right across telecom shops, computers centers, and Internet cafes housed in Cyberzone. It also has two levels of covered parking space with more than 500 slots.

NDC to venture into passenger, cargo shipping

From page B2

firm of Riverside College Inc. and THI Holdings Inc.

He said NDC had earmarked P17 million for the project. The proponents are still deciding whether to locate their operation in the cities of Bacolod, Iloilo, Dumaguete and Cebu.

The choice of the region is part of efforts to decongest Metro Manila and to spur economic activity in other investment-ready areas.

"More than the economic benefits of the venture, NDC expects that this would serve as a catalyst for local entrepreneurs to put up similar businesses," Favila said.

Considered the country's current sunshine industry, BPO businesses are expected to contribute up to 6.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product, according to a study made by BNP Paribas.

From invisible to visible

From page B6

over women when they hire fish wardens. In addition, several female fish wardens do not get the same benefits as the men, such as honorariums and allowances."

Conclusion

The largely invisible rural women's sector today contributes significantly to our economic development. Nevertheless, they are largely ignored. It is hoped that the government, both the local government units and the national agencies, give rural women their due recognition and support. The first step is to consider seriously the recommendations of the recently concluded PKK National Conference and by finally making the invisible rural women visible.

(The author is Agriwatch chair, former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

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Upper Agno Hydro
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (IAEB)

The Hydro Generation (UAHPC) invites interested private janitorial and manpower agencies to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid in accordance with R.A. 9184 for the SUPPLY of LABOR, TOOLS/EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS/SUPPLIES and SUPERVISION for the MANPOWER REQUIREMENT of the JANITORIAL/LAWN and GARDEN/LANDSCAPING and SUPPLY of TECHNICAL, SKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED, UNSKILLED and CLERICAL SUPPORT MANPOWER SERVICES for a contract period of two (2) years:

SCHEDULE	NAME of HYDRO PLANT and ADDRESS	APPROVED BUDGET for the CONTRACT per Year
1.	Upper Agno Hydro Plant Complex (Ambuklao and Binga HEP's) Ambuklao, Bokod and Tinongdan, Ifugao	Php 3,178,000.00

Applicant/s who may apply for eligibility and to Bid shall have to meet the following requirements:

1. Duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); or
2. Duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), in case of Cooperatives.

Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured on October 21, 2005 to October 28, 2005; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos only (P1,500.00) for Eligibility and Bid Documents at the business address of Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat of the power plants c/o Mr. Orlan W. Kelcho / Ms. Melania G Buizon.

Pre-bid Conference	November 04, 2005; 9:00 AM at Ambuklao Hydroelectric Plant
Deadline for submission of Eligibility and Bid Documents	November 18, 2005; 12:00 NN
Opening of Eligibility Documents and Screening	November 18, 2005; 1:00 PM
Opening of Bids (Price)	November 21, 2005; 2:00 PM

The determination of eligibility shall be based on the submission of the required documents, utilizing the prescribed forms using the criteria stated in the Eligibility Guidelines, Instruction to bidders and section 23.11 of the IRR of RA 9184. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid will be subjected to Post-Qualification procedure before an award is made Bid Prices submitted higher than the approved budget shall be rejected and returned outright.

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(PDI - Oct. 14 & 21, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENJAMIN E. TORRES has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 49; Page No. 11; Book No. XLVII; Series of 2005 Notary Public Fernando T. Collantes
(PDI-Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the San Miguel Corp. Stock Cert. No. 99568244 - 338 shares under ROSA ESTEBAN were declared lost. If no contest is received in 1 year, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2005)

PERSONAL

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From: Gemma Santos

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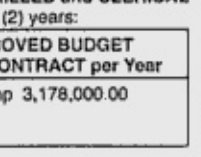

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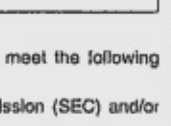

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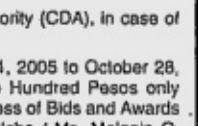

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BUSINESS

Jollibee buys Red Ribbon for P1.8B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP., OPERATOR of the country's largest fast food network, yesterday sealed its takeover of Red Ribbon Holdings Inc. (RRB), the owner of the Red Ribbon Bakeshop and specialty cakes chain in the Philippines and the United States, for P1.8 billion.

Jollibee said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it signed the share purchase agreement yesterday and would pay for all issued shares of Red Ribbon in cash.

About P1.3 billion was given to Red Ribbon yesterday, with the balance of P500 million to be paid in three equal installments over the next three years.

RRB Holdings is equally owned by the Moran, Mercado and Tiutan families.

Jollibee chair Tony Tan Caktiong said Red Ribbon Bakeshop would be "a very valuable addition to the Jollibee Group" given its strong brand.

"(Red Ribbon) stands for high quality cakes and pastries and enjoys a reputation for great tasting food, just like Jollibee's other brands," he said.

The acquisition will add 146 Red Ribbon stores to Jollibee's 1,200 stores worldwide.

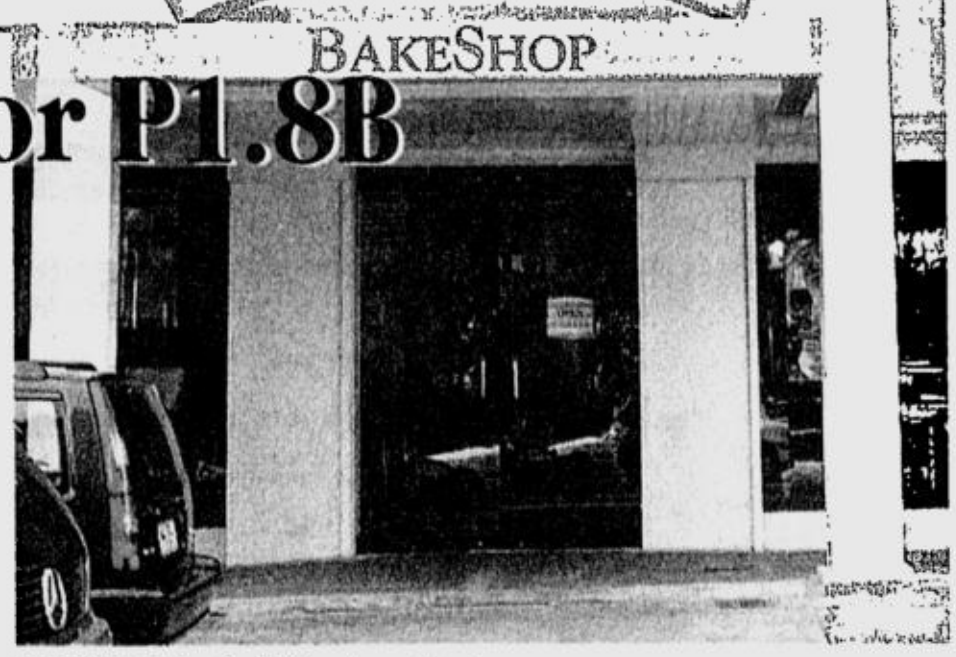
The acquisition of Red Ribbon will also bring an additional P2.5 billion in sales as of June 30 to Jollibee.

Jollibee's consolidated revenues last year hit P26.2 billion.

With the acquisition, Jollibee will also be able to expand into the highly competitive United States market.

The acquisition will bring the Jollibee group's stores in the United States to 34, all in the West Coast: 16 Red Ribbon, 10 Jollibee and eight Chowking.

Tan Caktiong said Jollibee would now focus on growing Red Ribbon's sales.



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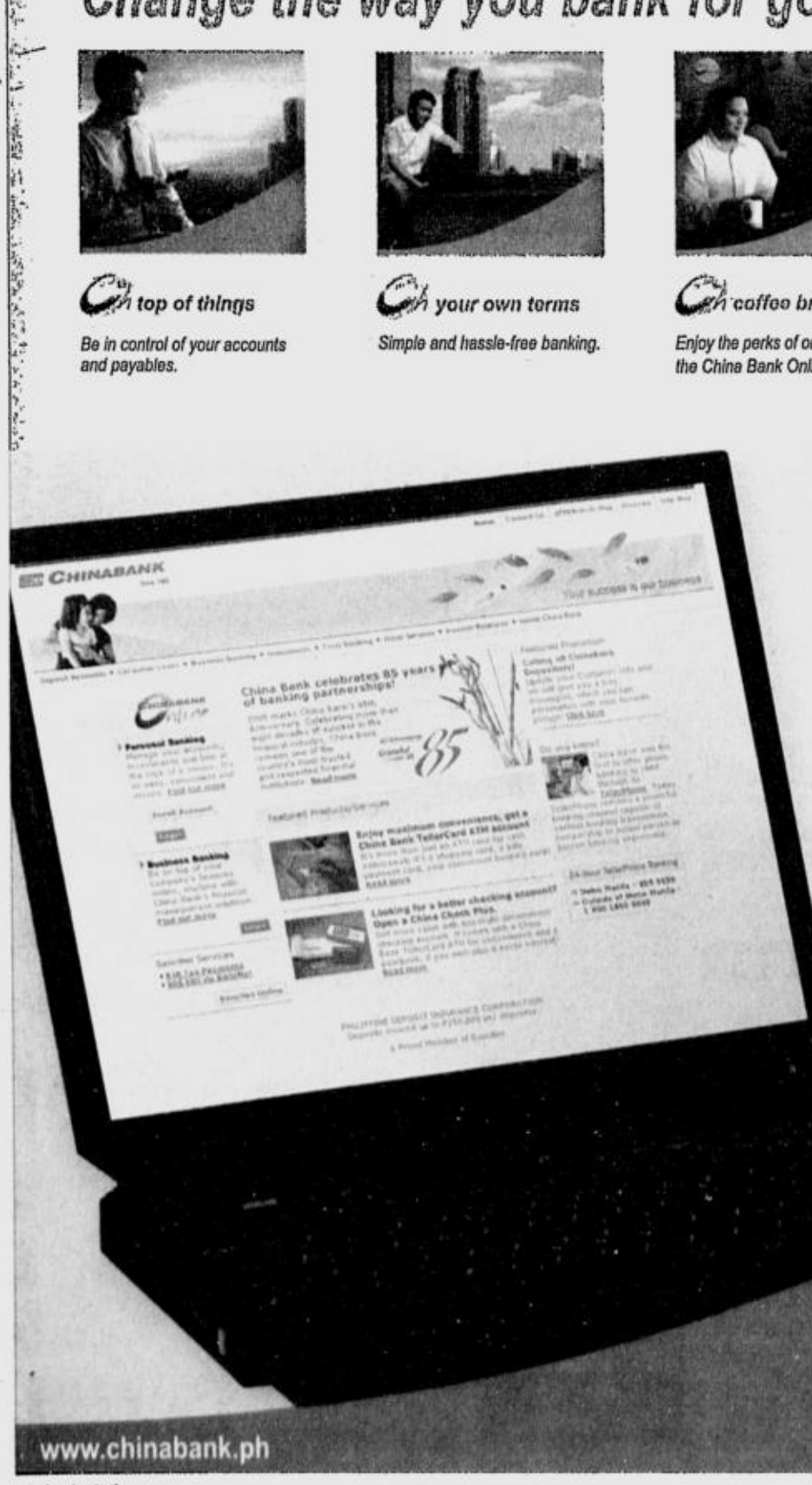

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SBMA attracts P1 billion in investments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EIGHT NEW INVESTORS ARE POURING IN A total of P1 billion in Subic freeport, according to Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Armand C. Arreza.

Arreza said yesterday most of the new locators would complement SBMA's port modernization project, with one firm—Subic Drydock—putting up a drydock facility.

The official did not provide a breakdown of investments but said Subic Drydock's accounted for the biggest chunk of the total amount.

According to the SBMA investment processing department, three other investors would engage in the transshipment business.

These are Ichiban Import-Export Corp., McGram Fusion Inc. and Fit Subic Inc.

Food product manufacturer Bonsure Evergreen International Corp. will have the biggest project in terms of job creation at 500 new jobs.

The other investors are Subic Palazzio Hotel and Resort; information technology products wholesaler Subic Nexus Technologies Inc. and educational institution Lyceum of Subic Bay Inc.

"These various business activities speak well of SBMA's renewed efforts at attracting different types of investments," Arreza said. "They also prove that Subic has something to offer to everyone."

Arreza also said that last month, SBMA granted lease contracts to five locators that committed investments of $1.5 million or about P83 million.

Further, SBMA expressed optimism that more businesses would pour into the freeport considering that it would host four sporting events in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in November.

Thousands of athletes, sports officials, and spectators are expected to flock to Subic for the archery, canoe-kayaking, sailing and triathlon events.

Lab confirms safety of CME use in vehicles

By Abigail L. Ho

A LABORATORY IN THE UNITED STATES has confirmed that locally manufactured coco methyl ester can be used in cars without damaging the engines.

Teresa Alleman, fuels performance group engineer at the United States National Renewable Energy Laboratory, said in a briefing yesterday that the CME samples sent for testing by the Department of Energy passed all the tests conducted by the organization over the past few months.

These included tests for vehicle and environmental safety.

Alleman said the results of the different tests showed that Philippine CME was stable enough to be stored and handled and could be mixed with diesel fuel without harming the engines.

She added that the diesel fuel and CME samples the DOE provided NREL for testing met current Philippine fuel quality standards.

DOE energy utilization and management bureau director Mario Marasigan said the government had already taken the lead in using CME with the issuance of Memorandum Circular 55.

This mandated the blending of one percent CME in the diesel used by government agencies.

Compliance with this circular was one of the criteria that government "enercops" used in rating how well a public firm implemented energy conservation measures, he explained.

"So far, there have been no adverse reports, such as engine breakdowns and the like, from users of the fuel," he said.

He said the DOE would use the results of the NREL test to strengthen its advocacy on CME use and to push for a biofuels law.

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Christmas lantern industry flickers

Text and Photos by Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

GERONA, TARLAC—FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS now, residents of Barangay Caturay in this town have been making a living from manufacturing Christmas lanterns.

The lanterns are displayed in 20-square-meter stalls along the MacArthur Highway here and sold to motorists passing through the province.

The lanterns have evolved over the years in both design and make-up. The old star-shaped bamboo lanterns, for example, are now gone. Multicolored plastic lanterns shaped like fruits, insects and flowers have replaced them.

Capiz lanterns have remained in vogue, but capiz shells are slowly giving way to other materials, like fiberglass and plastic, as buyers opt for durability and affordability.

But even as the Caturay portion of the national highway continues to be lit by thousands of lanterns displayed in front of almost 100 stalls, the industry itself is flickering. No thanks to the economic crisis

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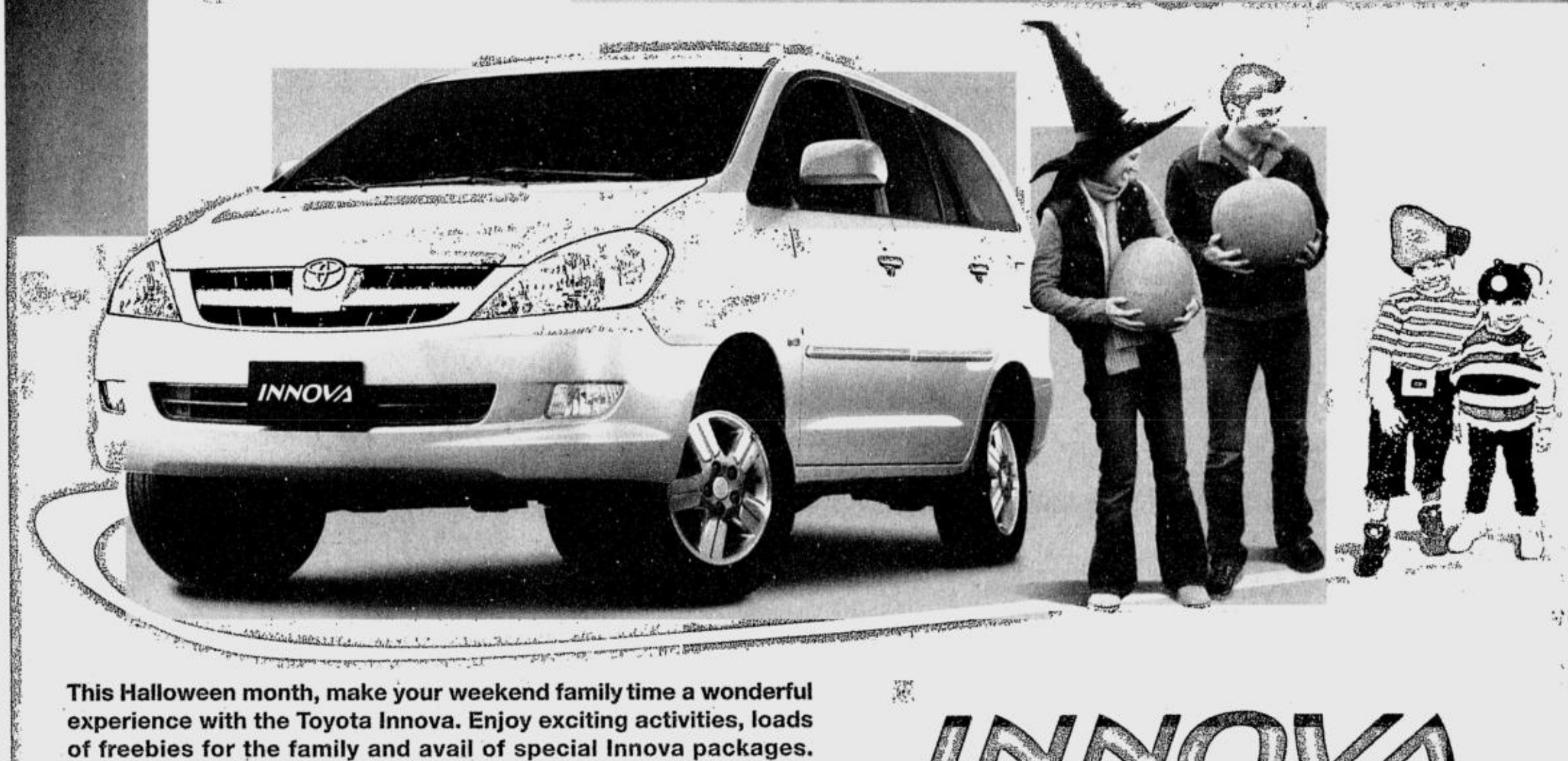

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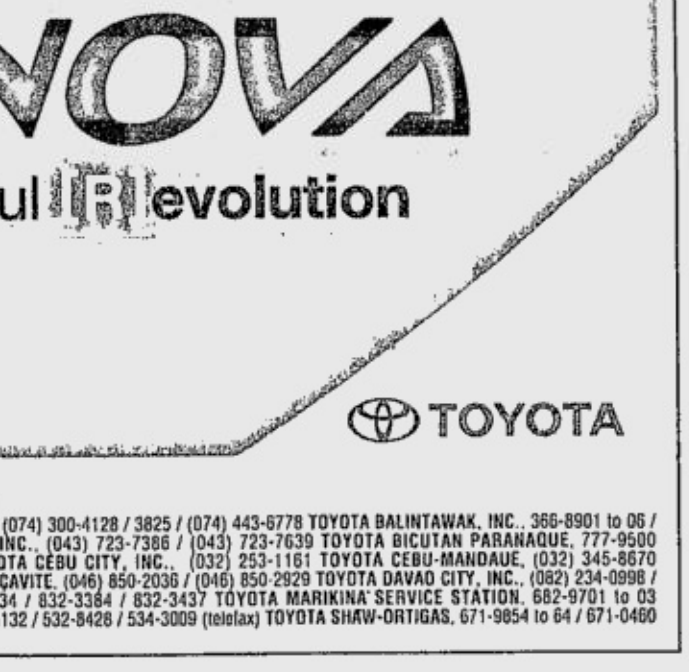

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Taxpayers' remedies in real property tax assessments

By Luis J.P. Ferrer
and Rodolfo Arvin D. Agbayani
SGV & Co

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE of 1991 (LGC) empowers provinces, cities or municipalities in Metro Manila to impose an annual ad valorem real property tax on real properties such as land, building, machinery and other improvements, by enacting the appropriate tax ordinance.

TAX-FILES

A province may impose an annual real property tax at a rate not exceeding one percent of the assessed value of the real property.

A city or a municipality in Metro Manila may impose an annual real property tax at a rate not exceeding two percent of the assessed value of the real property. Assessed value is the fair market value of the real property multiplied by the assessment level. It is synonymous to taxable value. "Assessment Level" is the percentage applied to the fair market value to determine the taxable value of the property. The "Assessment Level" is fixed by the ordinances of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan of a municipality within Metro Manila, respectively, and depends on the actual use of the real property (i.e., whether residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, mineral, timberland, cultural, scientific, hospital, local water districts or government-owned or controlled corporations engaged in the supply and distribution of water and/or generation and transmission of electric power).

In addition to the basic real property tax, an additional levy for the Special Education Fund (SEF) may be levied and collected at the rate of one percent of the "assessed value" of the real property.

Under the LGC, the following real properties are exempt from the real property tax:

(a) Real property owned by the Republic of the Philippines or any of its political subdivisions except when the beneficial use thereof has been granted, for consideration or otherwise, to a taxable person;

(b) Charitable institutions, churches, parsonages or convents appurtenant thereto, mosques, nonprofit or religious cemeteries and all lands, buildings, and improvements actually, directly, and exclusively used for religious, charitable or educational purposes;

(c) All machinery and equipment that are actually, directly and exclusively used by local water districts and government-owned or –controlled corporations engaged in the supply and distribution of water and/or generation and transmission of electric power;

(d) All real property owned by duly registered cooperatives as provided under Republic Act No. 6938; and

(e) Machinery and equipment used for pollution control and environmental protection.

It is the duty of all persons, natural or juridical, owning or administering real property, to prepare and file with the assessor, a sworn statement declaring the current and fair market value of their property. When the person required to declare the property refuses or fails to make such declaration, the assessor declares the property in the name of the defaulting owner. This fair market value will be the basis for the computation of the annual real property tax due.

Generally, all assessments or reassessments made after January 1 of any year take effect on January 1 of the succeeding year. This means that written notice of new or revised assessments (real property tax declarations) issued on any day between January 2 and December 31 of the current year only takes effect on January 1 of the succeeding year. The real property tax only accrues on January 1 of the succeeding year.

Appeal on assessments

When an assessment is made and the owner or the person having legal interest in the property is not satisfied with the action of the assessor in the assessment of his property, he may appeal to the Local Board of Assessment Appeals (LBAA) of the province or city within 60 days from the date of receipt of the written notice of assessment, by filing a petition under oath, together with copies of the tax declarations and such affidavits or documents in support of the appeal.

The assessor's assessment cannot be unilaterally revised until the same has been reviewed by the LBAA.

Appeals to the LBAA are limited to questions on the actions of the assessor in the assessment. Actions on assessment refer to actions by the assessor with respect to the act or process of determining the value of the property, or proportion thereof subject to tax, including the discovery, listing, classification, and appraisal of properties.

Although the general rule is that administrative remedies must first be exhausted before resort to judicial action can prosper, the well-settled exception is cases where the controversy does not involve questions of fact but only of law.

Taxpayers should take note that appeals on real property assessments do not suspend the collection of the corresponding realty taxes as assessed by the provincial or city assessor, without prejudice to subsequent adjustment depending upon the final outcome of the appeal.

Under the "Rules of Procedure Before the Local Boards of Assessment Appeals", an appeal may still be entertained by the LBAA and the hearing deferred until: the corresponding taxes subject of the appeal are paid under protest; or the taxpayer has given a surety bond, subject to certain conditions like the amount of the bond.

The LBAA is directed to decide an appeal within 120 days from the date of receipt of such appeal. After hearing, the LBAA should render its decision based on substantial evidence or such relevant evidence on record as a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support the conclusion. The LBAA has the power to summon witnesses, administer oaths, conduct ocular inspection, take depositions, and issue subpoenas.

Within 30 days after receipt of the decision of the LBAA, the property owner or the person having legal interest or the assessor who is not satisfied with the decision of the LBAA may appeal to the Central Board of Assessment Appeals (CBAA).

An appeal is made by filing a written notice of appeal, and the appeal itself, personally or by registered mail, with the LBAA which rendered the decision, resolution or order appealed from, or directly with the CBAA or with the latter's field office in the area where the real property in question is located, after serving a copy each of the notice of appeal and the appeal upon the adverse party or the latter's attorney.

The CBAA is directed to decide the cases brought before it on appeal within 12 months. In case of an unfavorable decision, resolution or order, an aggrieved party may file a motion for reconsideration within 15 days from the date he receives the CBAA's decision, resolution or order sought to be reconsidered, furnishing the adverse party with a copy of such motion. Only one petition for reconsideration can be entertained.

Within 30 days after the receipt of the CBAA's decision or ruling, any party adversely affected may file an appeal with the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA). The CTA en banc hears the case and should decide or resolve the case within 12 months from the date of submission. A case or matter is deemed submitted for decision or resolution upon the filing of the last pleading, brief or memorandum required by the Rules of Court or by the CTA itself.

A party adversely affected by a decision or ruling of the CTA en banc may file an appeal with the Supreme Court. The petition must be filed within 15 days from notice of the CTA's decision or of the denial of a motion for reconsideration filed in due time after notice of a decision. The Supreme Court may for justifiable reasons grant an extension of 30 days only within which to file the petition.

Conclusion

Considering the complexity of determining the correct real property tax due for each real property, it is possible that the real property taxes imposed on specific properties are erroneous. It is very important for taxpayers to know in the very first instance whether real property tax assessments are correct to be able to question or appeal erroneous assessments on time.

Otherwise, these erroneous assessments may no longer be corrected and the taxpayer may end up continuously paying the erroneous assessments.

Aside from appealing an erroneous assessment on time, it is also very important to determine the proper forum (LBAA or the regular courts) within which to file an appeal. Otherwise, an appeal might be dismissed and the taxpayer may end up wasting its time, effort and money as well as continuously paying the erroneous assessment for not being able to appeal to the right forum on time.

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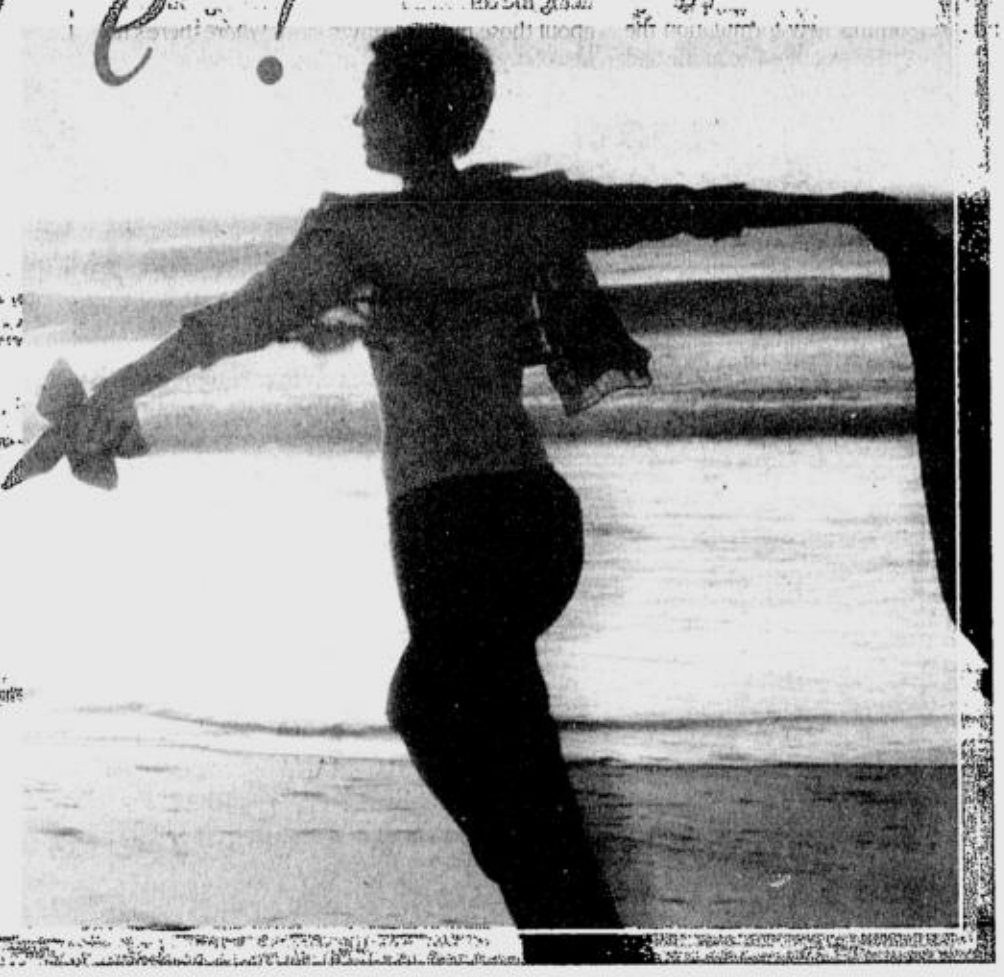
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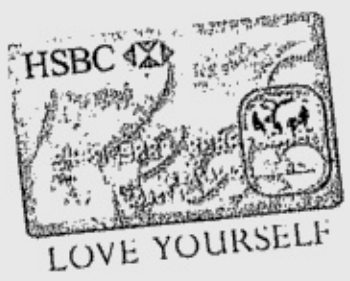

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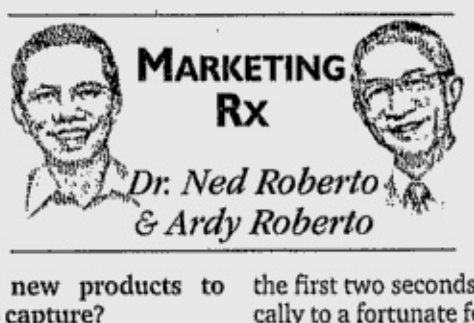
How do we apply Gladwell's concepts in marketing research?



Q: As marketers who believe in marketing research, how do we apply the concept of Gladwell's "thin-slicing" to marketing research? Are there marketers who have the gift of thin-slicing when deciding what new products to launch, new markets to capture?

A: We'll limit ourselves to your two questions instead of reviewing Malcolm Gladwell's latest bestseller, "Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking." His previous bestseller was "The Tipping Point."

What is thin-slicing?

On to your first question. Let's start by being clear what "blinking or thin-slicing" is. Gladwell defines this as "the ability of our unconscious to find patterns in situations and behavior based on very narrow slices of experience." He also calls this ability "rapid cognition" and unfortunately that's where many people get stuck: the term, the ability (which is a result) rather than the process of 'blinking', thin-slicing. As a process, thin-slicing is paying attention to the 1 or 2 things that matter in decision-making.

You'll find that thin-slicing is less difficult to apply if you see it as a process rather than a result. This interpretation can be seen most clearly in Gladwell's Chapter 5 discussion of failed and successful 'marketing research blinking.' So we're glad you focused on application to marketing research.

Let's just take the one example that's probably known to all: the case of the new Coke. What you can learn from this case is this: "There's such a thing as a WRONG thin-slicing and a CORRECT thin-slicing." That is, picking the wrong one item that matters versus picking the right one.

The real thing?

In the new Coke case, those working on the new Coke did the wrong thin-slicing. They picked on "taste" as the one thing that matters in deciding how to stop Pepsi from eroding Coke's market share. To the bigger and more vocal segment of the cola drinking market, the one item that matters more than taste was "the name, Coke's brand equity."

It's a classic case of what we regard as a fundamental marketing mantra: "In anything you do in marketing, always start where the consumer is; never with where you (the marketers) are." "Taste" was the Coke marketers' and product development people's pre-occupation. Of course to the Coke consumers, taste also matters. But that's the original century-old Coke taste. If you change that taste and place on this new formulation the Coke name, then you're in trouble. The name and the old classic taste are what loyal Coke consumers have grown attached to for generations. Changing is tampering with the Coke image. Remember, it's an image that's embodied by the Coke name. To the loyal Coke consumers, the one item that matters most was the thin-slice-name.

Rapid cognition in marketing research

Learn the one or two things that matter most to your market, your consumers.

The idea of "learning" thin-slicing challenges your second question, which assumed that thin-slicing is a "gift." To be sure, Gladwell admits that there are people born with the thin-slicing ability. But he qualifies this by pointing out there are more who learned the ability. In fact he was very explicit: "The power of knowing, in the first two seconds, is not a gift given magically to a fortunate few. It is an ability that we can all cultivate for ourselves."

Practice your system of validating your thin-slicing and always validate against a plausible rival thin-slicing. Let's go back to the new Coke case to clarify.

What was Coke product management's hypothesized thin-slice in the decision to introduce a new Coke? That "Taste is what matters in getting back lost market share." What was the validating system used? That's the blind product taste test versus the taste of Pepsi. The assumed plausible rival thin-slice was "Pepsi's taste."

What should have been the correct plausible rival thin-slice? It's Coke's name. And what's marketing research's validating system for this? That's brand name testing or the "identified product test." If Coke had followed the blind product taste test with the identified product test, Coke marketers and product development people could have seen what they saw after they launched. They would have seen how the new Coke's rating score on "% definitely will buy or prefer this" after the identified product test would have plummeted. And if they probed why, consumers would have told them so. It's therefore critical to validate against the CORRECT plausible rival thin-slice.

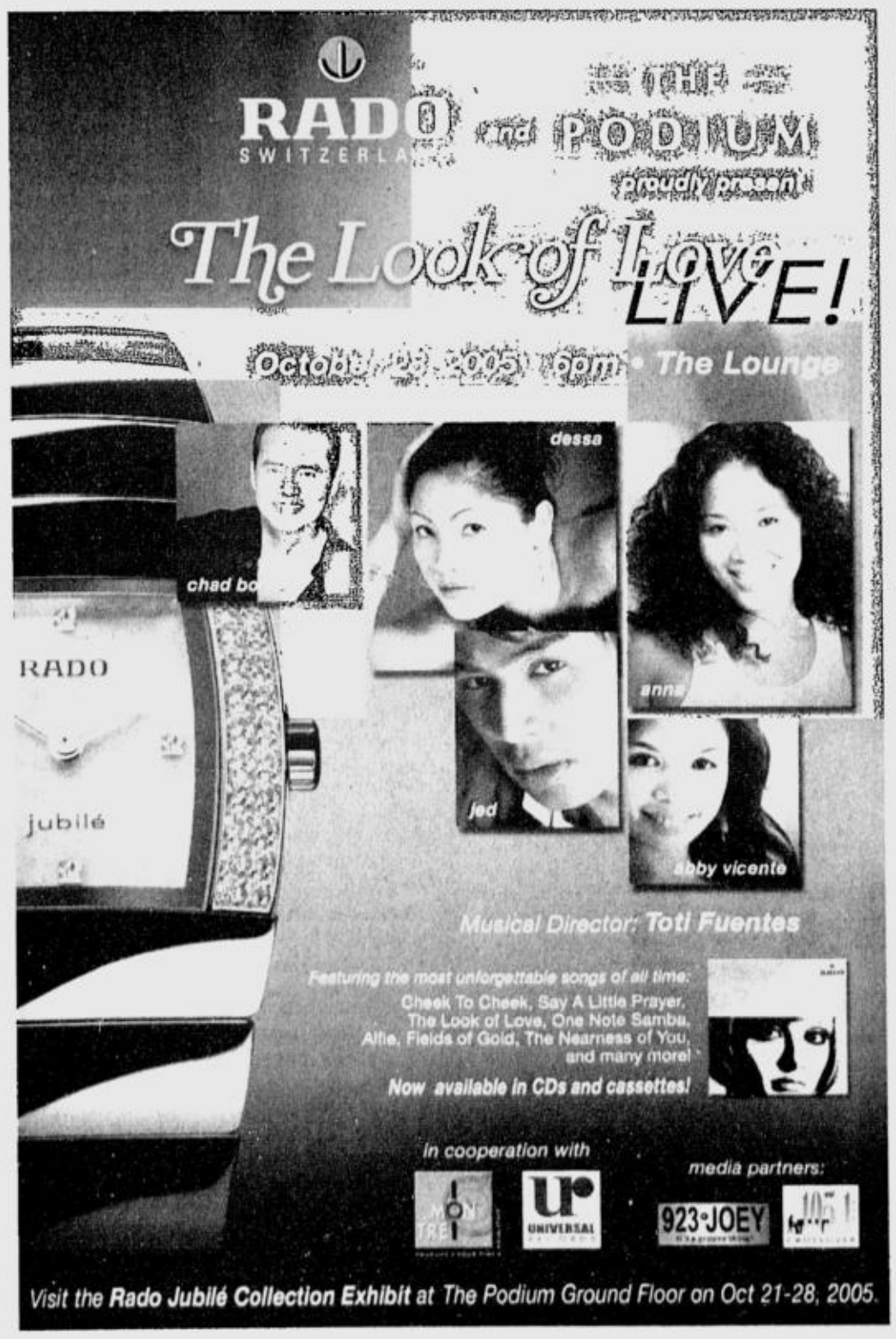
Unsolicited help for Gladwell

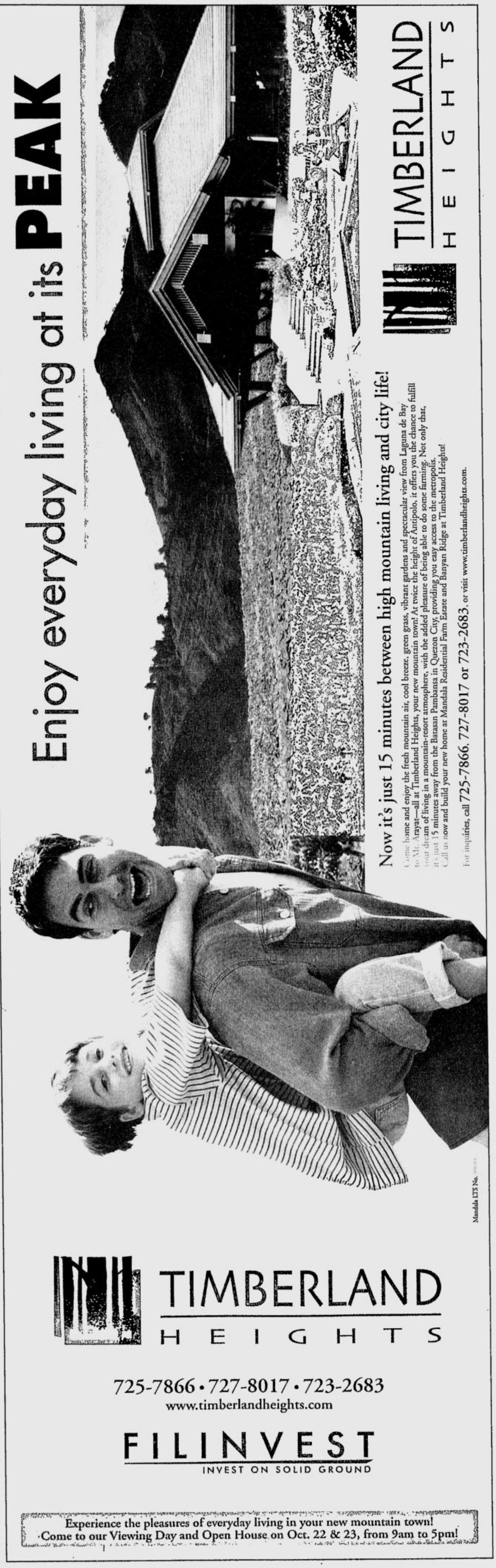
Of course this is not at all how Gladwell explained the case. He explained it the way a good reporter and a talented storyteller does, because he's one. But he's not a marketing researcher at all. That's why he incorrectly concluded and said: "The problem with market research is that often it is simply too blunt an instrument to pick up this distinction between the bad and the merely different." The marketing researchers he talked to in reporting on the new Coke case didn't know how to thin slice the correct "instrument to pick up the distinction between the bad and the merely different." And so in this interpretation of the new Coke case, we're pitching in for him.

The new Coke case is all very well when the situation is like what it often is in marketing research. There's a system for validating and practicing the correct blinking or thin-slicing. But what about those more common cases where there's no explicit system around? In fact, Gladwell says that these are "surprisingly what's common." There are those (what Gladwell calls) more "subtle, complex cases." Here, he observes: "Do people with the thin-slicing skill know why they knew? Not at all. But they just knew."

Watch out also for "Blink-The Seminar" an INQUIRER Executive Seminar series seminar on October 26/27 featuring the Senior MRx-er and Malcolm Gladwell via an exclusive video broadcast. Call 813-2732/03 for details.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!





BUSINESS Friday

What AdBoard?

AD BUZZ

ASK THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU: WHERE SHOULD I go if I want to raise my issues about a particular TV ad? Chances are, that person will say "MTRCB" without batting an eyelash. However, if that person tells you about the AdBoard, then that person is one of the few informed individuals.

It's not so surprising to hear that the MTRCB is generally conceived as the organization that takes care of everything connected to TV, from programming to advertising. This is because the MTRCB, being our guardian on mass media entertainment, is seen more often on TV.

It's ironic that an institution like the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) seems to have a weak branding and recall among its target audience. That audience—the consumer (general public) and member organizations—need to be reminded at least that there is such a self-regulating body that safeguards their welfare.

Does AdBoard need to advertise itself? Maybe. The AdBoard, however, feels that self-selling is just a means to an end. There is a deeper reason to revitalize the AdBoard, and it starts from within. Thus, in an attempt to rediscover its purpose, officers and board members gathered to take a second look at its vision and mission. The participants agreed right off the bat that the vision and mission need amendments based from chairman Raul Alvarez's prescience of the AdBoard's future.

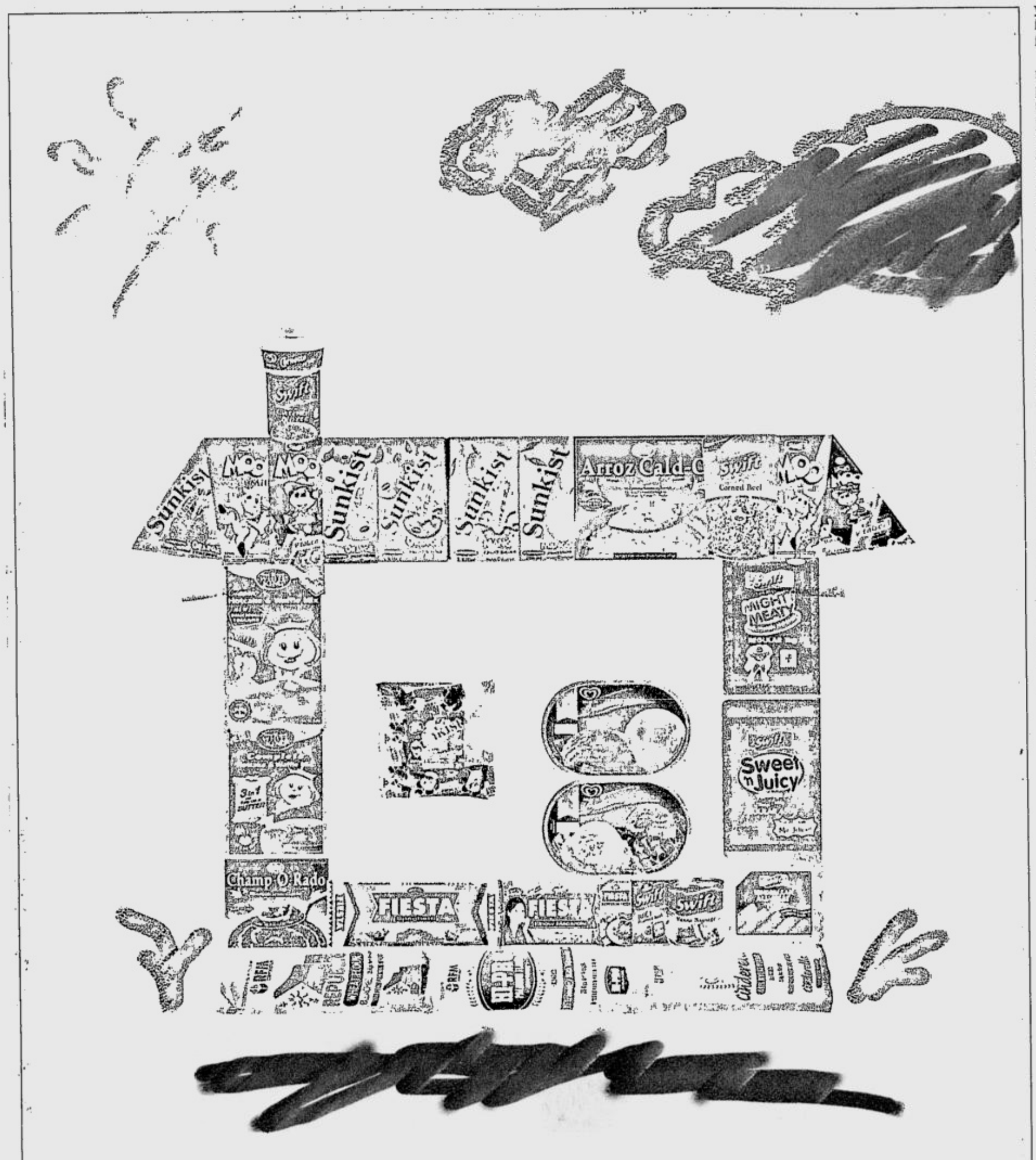
In his speech, chairman Alvarez expressed his desire to see AdBoard as a powerful voice of the industry. Among many things, he mentioned some important aspects on how to make a stronger AdBoard: the value of going back to basics; the need to focus on processes that will benefit the industry; the delivery of valuable service to consumers; assertion of leadership; social commitment; and the essence of telling the public what it is doing.

The "new" AdBoard vision and mission is new in a sense that it re-affirms the old one with a shorter, more focused direction. The vision is now thus stated: "We are the voice of the Philippine advertising industry. The pivotal force of a dynamic, prosperous and responsible industry." These seem like big, forceful words. Nevertheless, the AdBoard is showing its seriousness in playing its role.

The AdBoard mission now sounds more like statements of fact, rather than a list of intentions the way the old version was stated. It declares self-regulation as the cornerstone of its existence. It vows to adhere to the highest standards of fair play and professional ethics. It asserts harmony among its members. It guarantees protection of consumers through truthful and responsible advertising. It is a dynamic home where world-class advertising flourishes.

The AdBoard is on the right track with its current implementation of the advocacy called "Paggalang sa Mamimili." It started with a series of ads on print and broadcast, complemented by published informative articles about the nature of the campaign. Recently, a tour of colleges and universities in Metro Manila was conducted to teach the youth about consumer respect through truthful advertising and at the same time learn from the students' ideas.

As the industry may already know, internal conflicts marred the AdBoard's progress. In the words of chairman Alvarez, the AdBoard is a group of "naturally competitive units in a dynamic industry." Conflicts, therefore, are necessary and foreseen. With gritted teeth, the AdBoard is hungrier than ever to fight these odds and prepare to give this independent body a face in the crowd.



Christmas...

From page B2-1

and the political instability the country faces.

Nieves Duldulao, 62, president of the Caturay Lantern Makers Cooperative, relates that when she and her husband Mamerto went into the lantern-making business in the '70s, Barangay Caturay was already known as a producer of lanterns.

The industry has a curious history.

According to Caturay residents, a blind man settled in the nearby village of Magaspac during the latter part of the 1900s. A skilled bamboo craftsman, he taught the villagers the art of making bamboo lanterns. Unfortunately, few were interested.

Unfazed, he moved to Caturay. Here, to the blind man's pleasant surprise, his eagerness to teach was matched by the residents' enthusiasm to learn. And thus was born the bamboo lantern industry in the barangay.

When the Duldulaos ventured into the lantern business, they mixed their traditional lantern products with those bought from the City of San Fernando in Pampanga.

Very much unlike the original Caturay lanterns, the San Fernando lanterns are framed by corrugated iron wires instead of bamboo sticks and covered with plastics of different colors.

Capiz lanterns with religious paintings in the middle are a variation of the San Fernando lanterns.

Duldulao says that in the beginning they bought finished products from San Fernando. But later on, as part of their effort to learn the craft, they began to buy partially finished ones from Cavite and Novaliches. The electrical installation for the bulbs, they did themselves.

Then they got only the shells, which they covered, decorated and fitted with bulbs. Ultimately, they learned to make the frames themselves—and to conceptualize new designs.

Duldulao believes that lantern makers in Caturay now have more than mastered the skills necessary for the industry to grow.

In fact, she says, entrepreneurs from San Fernando have started getting their supplies of plastic lanterns from her village.

But the present economic crisis is causing havoc on the village's lantern industry.

"The costs of making lanterns are going up, but the prices of lanterns are going down instead of the other way around," Duldulao says.

"This is because if we don't price our products low we'll lose our customers, who are, after all, having financial difficulties, too."

Economic pinch

Maximo dela Cruz, 60, who went into the lantern business the same decade the Duldulaos did, is also experiencing the economic pinch.

In previous years, he says, five months before Christmas his lanterns would be selling like hot cakes. Now, it is already October and yet business remains slow.

This was the case last year, too, he says, because of the labor strike at Hacienda Luisita. "You see, many of my customers are sugarcane planters whose livelihood depended on the sugar central inside the hacienda. But when the mill closed, they lost their source of income."

Lailani Ramil, 31, and Arman Duldulao, 28, owners of Lansman Lantern, agree that indeed business is not brisk these days.

Ramil says buyers' arrivals are few and far between. And they are buying the inexpensive products like flower and fruit lanterns, which are priced at P250. Capiz lanterns, priced at P1,200 and higher, are rarely taken.

In the past, she relates, they enjoyed daily sales of P3,000. But due to the economic situation, it would be God-sent if they could earn P500 per day.

She's concerned that if her barangay's lantern industry is allowed to flicker, then Christmases would be less bright.

FASHION LIFESTYLE

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Contributing editors Jenni Epperson and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

the next big thing

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skinCare beyond

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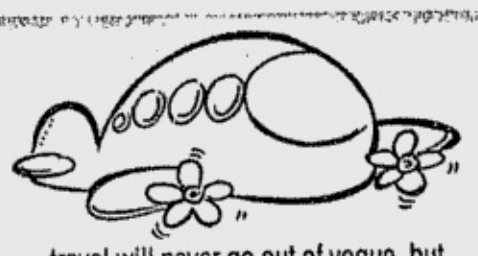
... to have the comfort factor in every part of your home. —Ito Kish, interior designer

... microfinance. If we want to progress as a nation, we must all work together to alleviate poverty and one path that is proving to be most promising, if done the right way, is microfinance and microentrepreneurship. —Warner Manning, CEO, HSBC

... curls. Big curls, digital curls, distressed curls or simply hints of waves. Even unpolished textured straight hair is here to jumpstart evening updo. It is here now, and it will definitely still be the next big thing. —Henri Calayag, creative director, H Salon



... travel will never go out of vogue, but vacations are no longer limited to the languid holidays of sun, sea and sand of the past. Travelers want education, an immersion in history, an experience of the local cultures and practices. This is what we've done with our Peninsula Academy, an experience of the local culture but in Peninsula style. —Mariano Garchitorena, director for communications, Peninsula Manila

... fashion that's engineered to fit the lifestyle of today's intelligent and discriminating market. Putting a premium on practicality merged with quality, rather than imposing, is essential. —Anton Huang, EVP, Stores Specialists Inc.

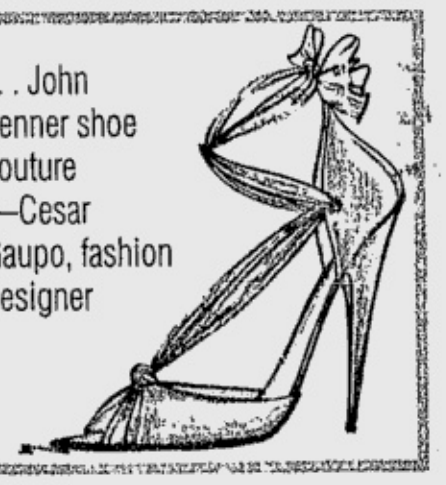
... shared personal training and fusion classes. Two to three people sharing a personal trainer is a smart way to get personalized service at an affordable price. Fusion classes combine yoga, pilates, core training, ballet and functional strength training into a time-efficient blend. —Tina Juan, INQUIRER columnist

... the return to the exaggerated and romantic opulence of the 1980s (minus the shoulder pads). Heavily bejeweled evening gowns will return in a big way. For daywear, women will opt for full skirts and billowy pants. Although the color black never left the fashion scene, it will reign supreme again. And lastly, lame, lame, lame. —Ito Curata, fashion designer

... Jay-R. I've seen his TV commercials and his endorsements, and I believe he's the talent to watch out for. —Cornelia "Angge" Lee, talent manager

... in design, following clean, simple monotones in miniature proportions, is volume and texture: tropical flowers and orchids grander and more and more dramatic in oversized containers in solid, metallic colors. —Rachy Cuna, floral stylist

... John Kenner shoe couture —Cesar Gaupo, fashion designer



—Michele Sison, fashion designer

... Matteo Guidicelli, the 14-year-old all-time karting champion, and Derek Ramsey, celebrity endorser. Both possess charisma, integrity and immense goodwill. They are truly loved by the people they work with. Both boys being gorgeous is a bonus. —Joji Dingcong, talent manager

... Pandayan because of its director, Toto Natividad. He's able to bring to television the big-screen legend in amazing series that is definitely highly anticipated. —Veanna Arameta-Jones, talent manager

... 3G mobile phones. —Pearl Peralta-Maclang, director of sales and marketing, Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila

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Big is in vogue again

FRIDAYS WILL NEVER BE the same again. Together with Jenni Epperson, Ria Francisco, and with the guidance of Lifestyle editor Chelo Banal-Formoso, I aim to give you the hottest news in fashion and beauty every fashionable Friday. Yes, we're thinking big to provide you fresh ideas and ultra-stylish but practical fashion options.

Speaking of big, volume with a capital V is in vogue again. Now's the perfect time to add a bit of oomph to your basic wardrobe by adding an element of something voluminous—be it a bubble skirt, a ruffled Victorian-inspired collar or stylized harem pants.

With this in mind, five of Manila's young style-meisters came up with their own versions of voluminous fashions, thereby creating interesting new silhouettes to play around with. In a runway to real-way photo shoot, the fab five presented their designs in two ways—couture and street.

It is hoped their designs illustrate how you may incorporate the new trend into your wardrobe. So if you're all set, go ahead and take inspiration from all things big.

Get your fashion fix at the "05 Fashion Declaration," a fashion show featuring the five designers on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 7 p.m., at the NBC Tent.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Ivarluski Aseron

Runway: Editors' favorite and design genius Ivarluski has found the perfect marriage of structured and soft, supple and stiff, in his work. His combination of a jacket with a bubble collar and full skirt with an uneven folded hem is seriously stylish and a refreshing alternative to all things basic and boring.

Real way: Make this look your own by removing one element and mixing it with something from your closet. Take the jacket and wear with a basic skirt or even jeans. Or take the skirt and match with a tee, tank or any ordinary knit top.

Call or text 0927-2736583.

Joey Samson

Runway: Most known for his tailoring, menswear-inspired designs, and attention to detail and proportion, Joey created stylized, exaggerated alkido pants, which can also be worn as a gown, matched with a long jacket long-sleeved polo shirt and tie.

Real way: Can't get away with this runway look? Match the alkido pants with a wearable top like this collared halter-top for an effortlessly chic look that's perfect for formal affairs.

Call or text 0918-9592541.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Yvonne Quisumbing

Runway: "I look at my clothes as one-of-a-kind, wearable art," says Yvonne, who designed this unconventionally pretty skirt with a petticoat of organdy silk strips, matching top and belt of beaded flowers and "alien-like fruits."

Real way: Keep things simple by matching the skirt with a basic tank or spaghetti strapped-top. Wear the belt as a neckpiece for added flair.

Call or text 0920-9206370.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ERWIN BARLETA, EDGE OF LIGHT STUDIO (TEL: 8904611, 8994823)
HAIR AND MAKE UP: JEOFF MORAN, ASSISTED BY MERLY DABUIT, BOTH OF EMPHASIS SALON
MODELS: BIANCA VALERIO AND JOANNE PADILLA OF PMAP AND BRIDGET INOFRECIO FOR IGNACIO LOYOLA

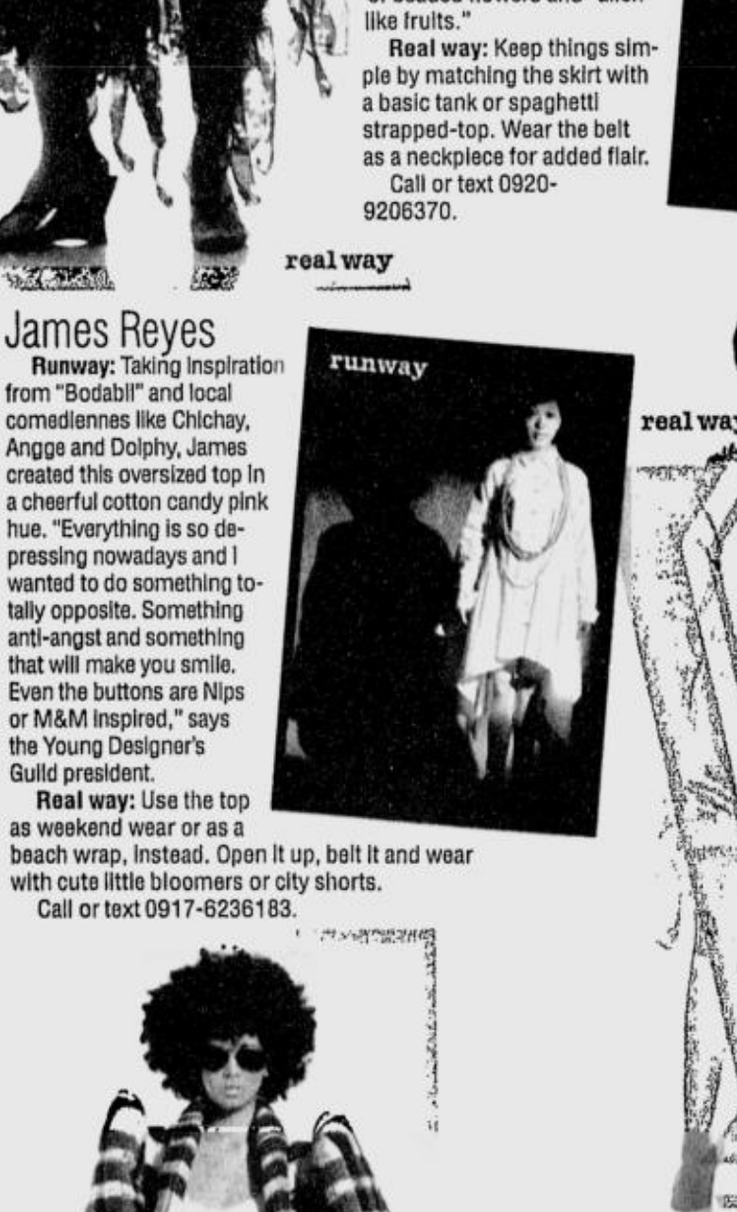
real way

James Reyes

Runway: Taking inspiration from "Bodabil" and local comediennes like Chichay, Angge and Dolphy, James created this oversized top in a cheerful cotton candy pink hue. "Everything is so depressing nowadays and I wanted to do something totally opposite. Something anti-angst and something that will make you smile. Even the buttons are Nips or M&M inspired," says the Young Designer's Guild president.

Real way: Use the top as weekend wear or as a beach wrap. Instead. Open it up, belt it and wear with cute little bloomers or city shorts.

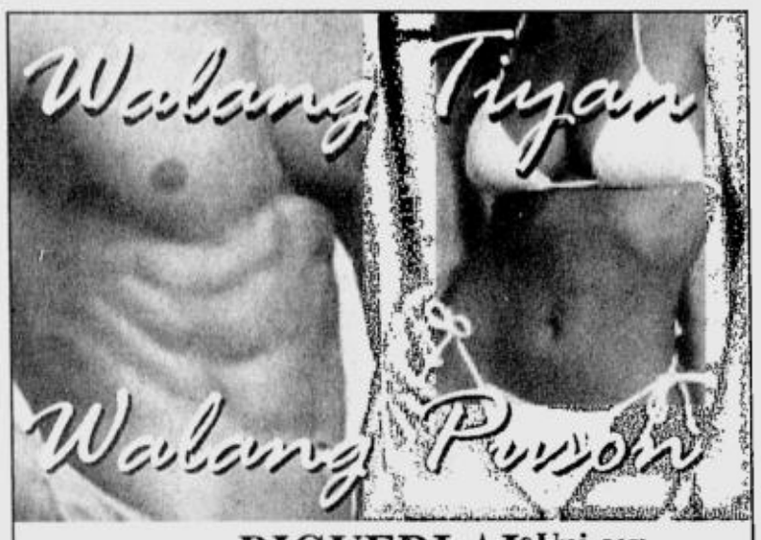
Call or text 0917-6236183.

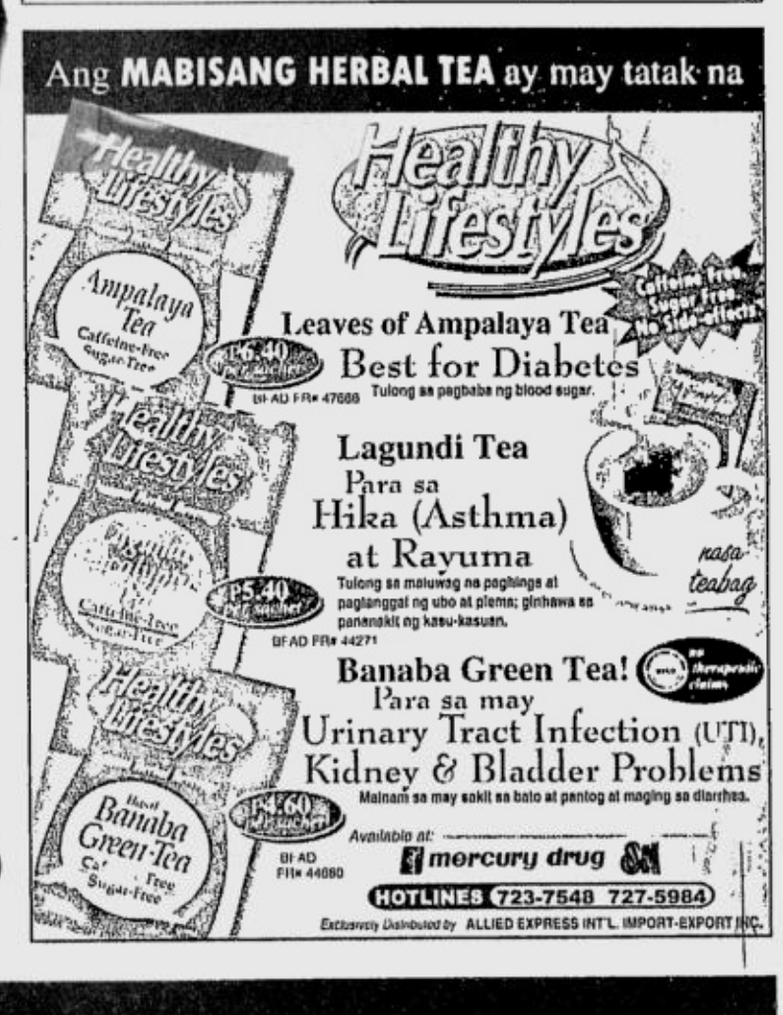


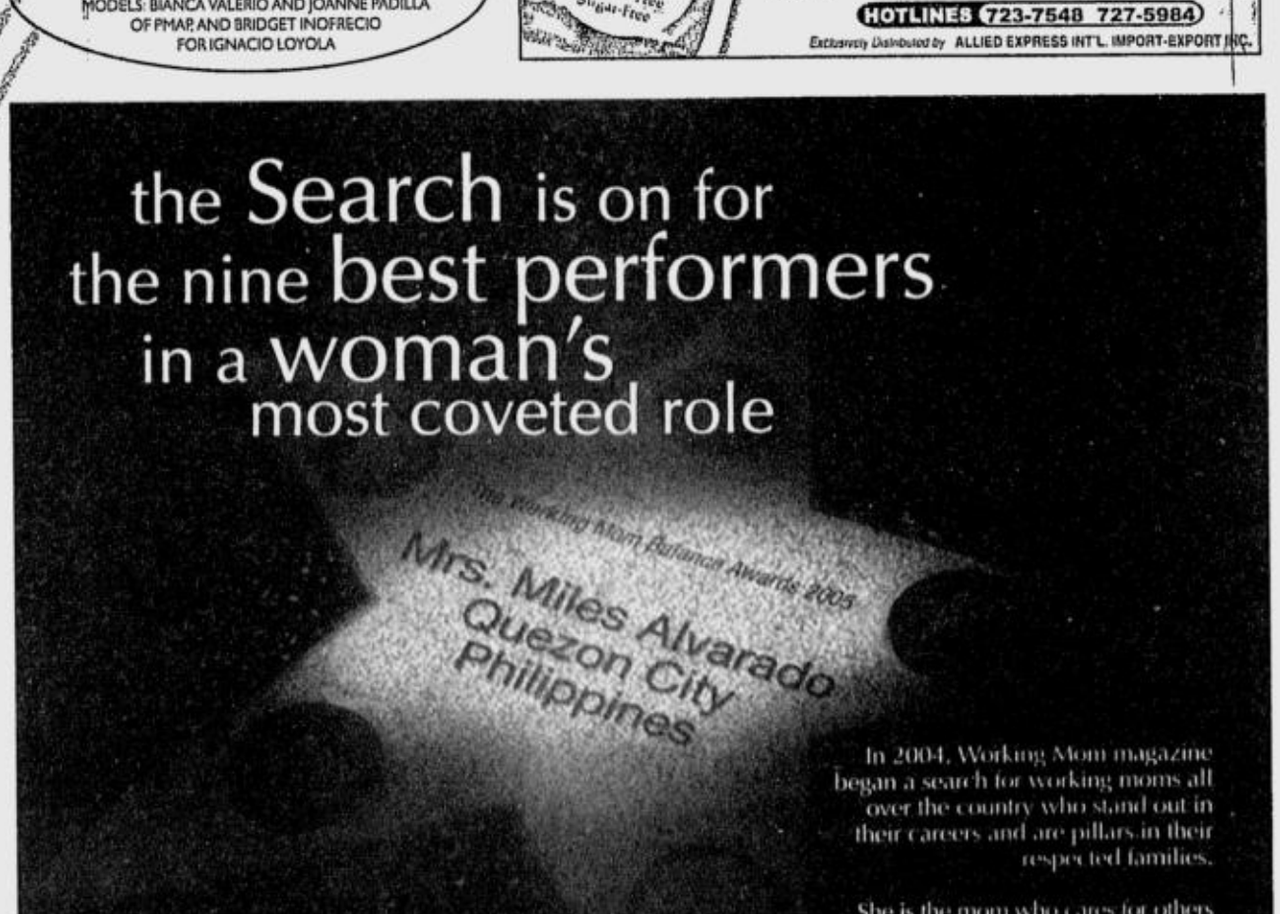
Ignacio Loyola

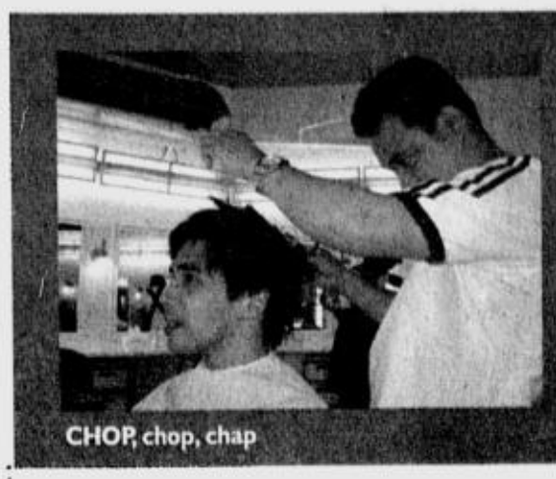
Runway: Ignacio's imaginative creation is rightfully the country's entry to the Concours International de Jeunes Creature de Mode in Paris, a young designers competition that's held yearly in the *tres* chic fashion capital. Best known for his use of indigenous materials, Ignacio used abaca twine made into tassels for the extra-voluminous skirt and Ifugao woven fabric for the stylized bolero with padded terno sleeves.

Real way: Quirky-as-can-be and a definite cross between Imelda Marcos and Foxxy Cleopatra of "Austin Powers" fame. Have a little fun by pairing the stylized bolero with sexy jeans, a tank and high-heeled boots. Call or text 0926-8368100.

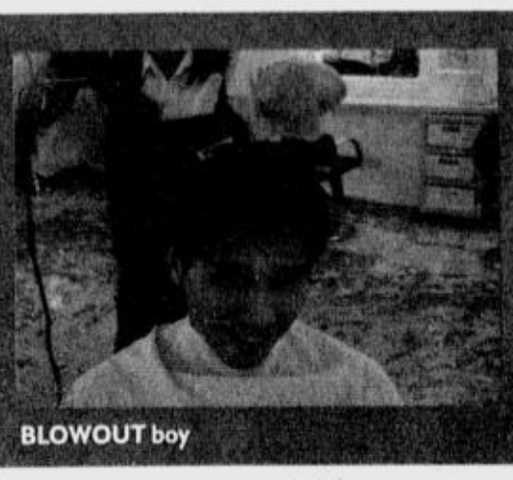


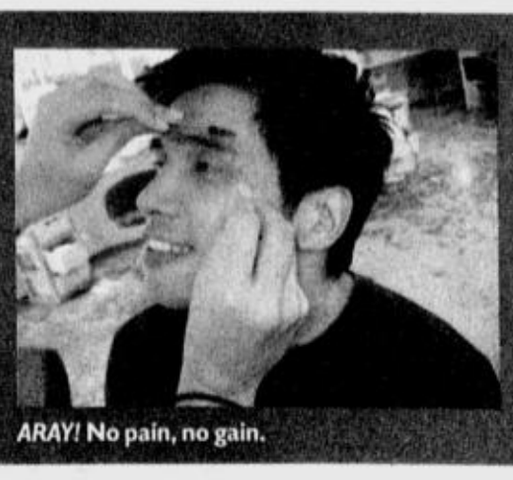





CHOP, chop, chap

COLOR me b-b-bad.


BLOWOUT boy


ARAY! No pain, no gain.

SMILE for Belo!

A commercial casting director should look the part, without apologies

Beyond basics

By Juan Sarte III and Robbie Carmona

Target: Benjie Pecson, 32, freelance advertising casting director

Benjie auditions and recommends models for television and print commercials of big advertising accounts like San Miguel, Coca-Cola and Globe. We caught him in the mall on a Sunday wearing a baseball cap, cargo shorts, a brown long-sleeved T-shirt and flip-flops. He says his work wear consists of pastel shirts paired with jeans or khakis plus sneakers. For his client presentations, he wears the traditional short-sleeved button-down shirt with slacks and leather shoes.

JUAN SAYS:

People who say men are more vain than women make it sound like male vanity is a negative thing. But when asked about their preference in men, women would most probably answer men who dress well, look neat and smell good. Who wouldn't? But isn't vanity a key for a man to be all these?

There is nothing wrong with men wanting to look good and wanting to feel good. Men who present themselves well are more confident and will get ahead faster than ones who don't. This is the power of appearance.

I read somewhere that every man must do anything to better himself, and that this is self-love. So if vanity means wanting to improve one's self, I'd say let's all be vain.

Some may say that excessive vanity is indicative of a shallow nature and self-obsession. This is entirely true of excessive vanity. But a reasonable degree of vanity is simply indicative of self-respect and self-awareness. Tending to your appearance and feeling good about yourself does not mean you've lost the plot and chucked your integrity out the window. You may paint your house, but that doesn't mean the foundation is going to crumble. You'll just have a better-looking house.

–Michael Flocker
"The Metrosexual Guide to Style"

Mission: to transform from "boring" to "hip and happening"

Both of us, Juan and Robbie, were advertising casting directors before we became a fashion director and a makeup artist, respectively. We know that a casting director must command both authority and credibility. He is the one who has the eye to choose the right face to launch a product. Casting can also be a glamorous job. Casting directors deal with good-looking models and top advertising executives and clients on a daily basis.

Grooming makeover by Juan Sarte III

Accomplice 1: Propaganda Salon, 3/F Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati

Hair cut: Benjie has massive black hair that is difficult to style so he usually covers it with a baseball cap. The layering was too blunt, which made it appear thicker, creating a dated *mala*-'80s Brylcream look.

Benjie wanted to maintain the length of his hair. But the thick sides made his hair look dated so we came up with a compromise.

Aureo Pena, Propaganda's resident hair stylist, cut Benjie's hair short at the sides, leaving a little volume on top and maintaining the length at the back. The blunt layering was disconnected to thin the top without changing its length. The shorter sides made his hair easier to fix while maintaining the messed up top.

Hair color: The blackness of Benjie's thick hair even made it more massive so we decided to color it. At Propaganda, we call it "breaking the black." Brown hair on men can be tricky so we were very careful in choosing the right brown. We wanted a deep, subtle, masculine brown that's neither rusty nor brassy. We wanted a "*sosyal*" brown and not the "*mandaragat*" type of brown.

Benjie was given foil highlights of platinum-blond gold, then a full tint of dark blond matte auburn. Platinum? Blond? Gold? Didn't we want it subtle?

Scary as it may sound, Benjie's color-resistant, virgin hair needed it. When they finally shampooed out the color formula, Benjie's hair color was perfect. The massiveness of his hair was gone. The highlights were so subtle they just blended into the rest of the hair.

Hair style: The final style is very low-maintenance. With a dollop of Osis Thrill Fibre Gum, the hair can be manipulated to whatever style is desired. For that day, we just pressed the sides flat and messed up the top. Benjie's hair looked yummy.

Eyebrow grooming: Just like facial hair that has to be shaved or nose hair that has to be trimmed, men's eyebrows must be groomed when needed. Benjie had long strands of eyebrow hair growing downwards. I couldn't stand his "eyebrow bangs" so I trimmed them myself.

Accomplice 2: Belo Medical Group, Rustan's Makati

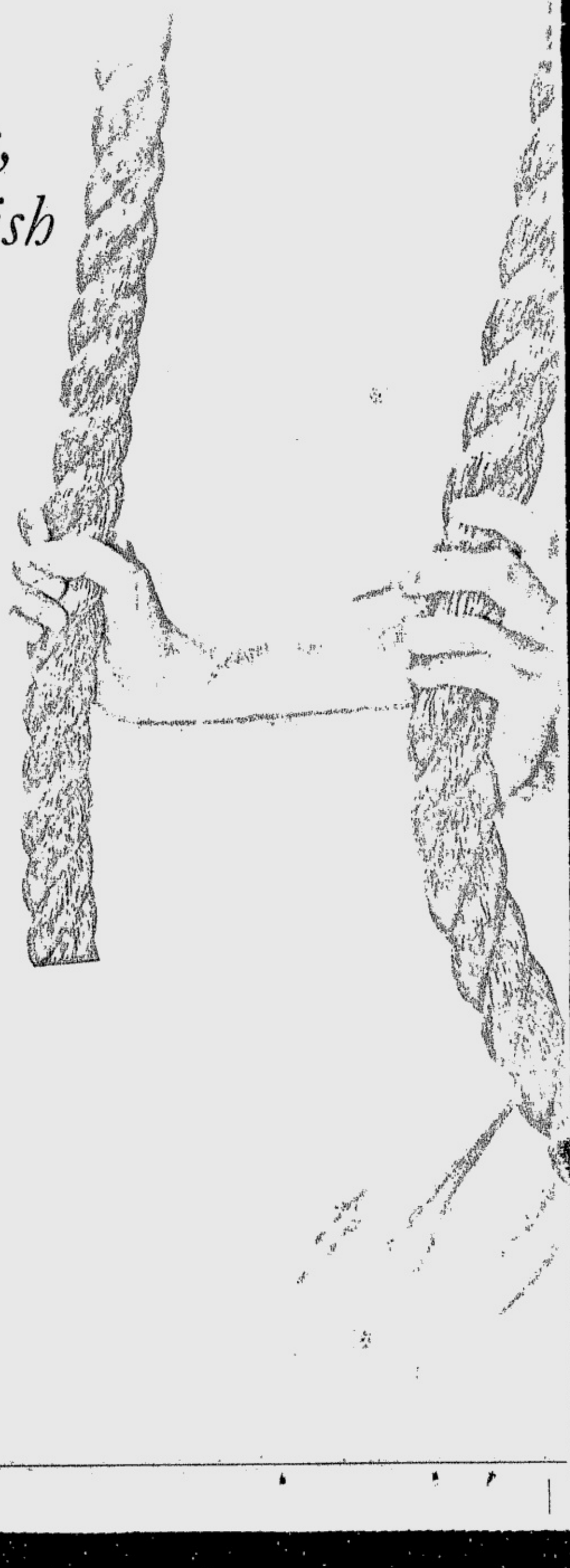
Basic cleaning: Dr. Regina Llorin of the Belo Medical Group recommended Basic Cleaning on Benjie's face. This procedure took around 30-40 minutes of thorough extraction of impurities such as whiteheads and blackheads. Llorin told Benjie to have this procedure done on a regular basis. She prescribed the Belo Acne Kit which consists of a Glycolic Soap for cleansing; Chat two percent, which is an antibiotic-based astringent; Pore Minimizer; and Daily Peel Solution for maintenance.

Powerpeel: Joey of the Belo Medical Group performed the Powerpeel, or microdermabrasion, on Benjie upon Llorin's recommendation.

Powerpeel is a facial peeling procedure wherein crystals in a vacuum machine are rubbed on the skin to gently remove its dull outer layers. It also stimulates collagen production and has some tightening effect on the pores.

Downtime with the Powerpeel differs from person to person. In Benjie's case, he looked refreshed after the treatment. Llorin says it will even improve in the next few days when it reaches its full effect.

This Christmas, may your every wish be granted.



before

after

ROBBIE SAYS:

Let's face it. We all want to be around people who look good. Some have this basic impulse because they appreciate beauty in its various forms; others because they like the feeling of being with attractive people.

Beauty is not like your Monet painting, after all, where it looks great from afar but is a big mess up close.

I mean, no offense to Monet, but I personally wouldn't want to admire someone 10 feet away from me and end up running for cover out of sheer shock from a face-to-face encounter.

And so it should be from the inside of a person to his outside appearance, and vice-versa. Both facets should be at their best forms at all times. Both should be a reflection of the other's state.

Think of it this way, a suit looks good on a nice physique, but looks better with a stunning smile. Some men forget that one goes with the other, and that's a sad, sad fact.

A MOST MAGICAL TIME OF THE YEAR
Rustan's

BENJIE Pecson, hip and happening

And so, I say, take my hand as we go shopping for some great outfits for your lost soul. I'm all for saving the faux pas of the inner self with some fabulous clothes.

Style makeover by Robbie Carmona

Accomplice: Rustan's Menswear Department, Rustan's Makati

I asked Benjie to describe and define the major aspects of his job as a caster. Basically, it can be divided into three looks: a sporty, relaxed and laid-back vibe for auditions of talents; a stylish yet professional appeal for client presentations; and a hip look for those party-filled nights out. And so, with these needs dissected, we began his transformation.

Auditions

Look 1: A sporty zip-up jacket over a graphic tee, both from 4 U, paired with dark distressed denims by D Squared and brown canvas shoes from Kenzo. A mailman bag in chocolate hue completes the look.

Look 2: I did some layering techniques for the second look combining a pinstriped long-sleeved polo from Salt over a basic tee in aqua. Khaki pants from Salt and white sneakers from Kenzo cap off the outfit. To accessorize, a messenger bag in grey from Salt, and a Tateossian silver necklace together with a striped beret from Springfield serve as the finishing touches.

The essentials: Since audition rooms get really cold sometimes, jackets or long-sleeved toppers are a must-have to fend off the sub-zero conditions. Mailman bags are useful for storing all those talent files and set cards that casters have all the time. In this case, practicality plays a key role in the styling.

Client presentations

The look: The stylish yet professional man serves as the inspiration. Casual denims from D Squared, white sneakers from Kenzo, and a basic white tee get dressed up with a nice, tailored blazer in the classic black from Rykiel Homme. The mailman bag gets a makeover with richer fabrics and silver buckle finishing from Salt.

The essentials: The creative nature of a caster's work allows for some leeway in defining the appropriate outfit for client presentations. The key item is the blazer in black, which is sure to project that professional vibe required in making and sealing deals with business partners. Investing in alternative colors like brown, grey and blue are also good as add-ons to one's closet.

Clubbing

The look: The military is back in action! So, I've shown two different ways on how to use your basic cargo pant for those nights of endless partying. The first look is paired up with a graphic tee from J.Lindberg.Denim and a structured jacket in black from 4 U. The second look is much looser with your salmon button-down shirt.

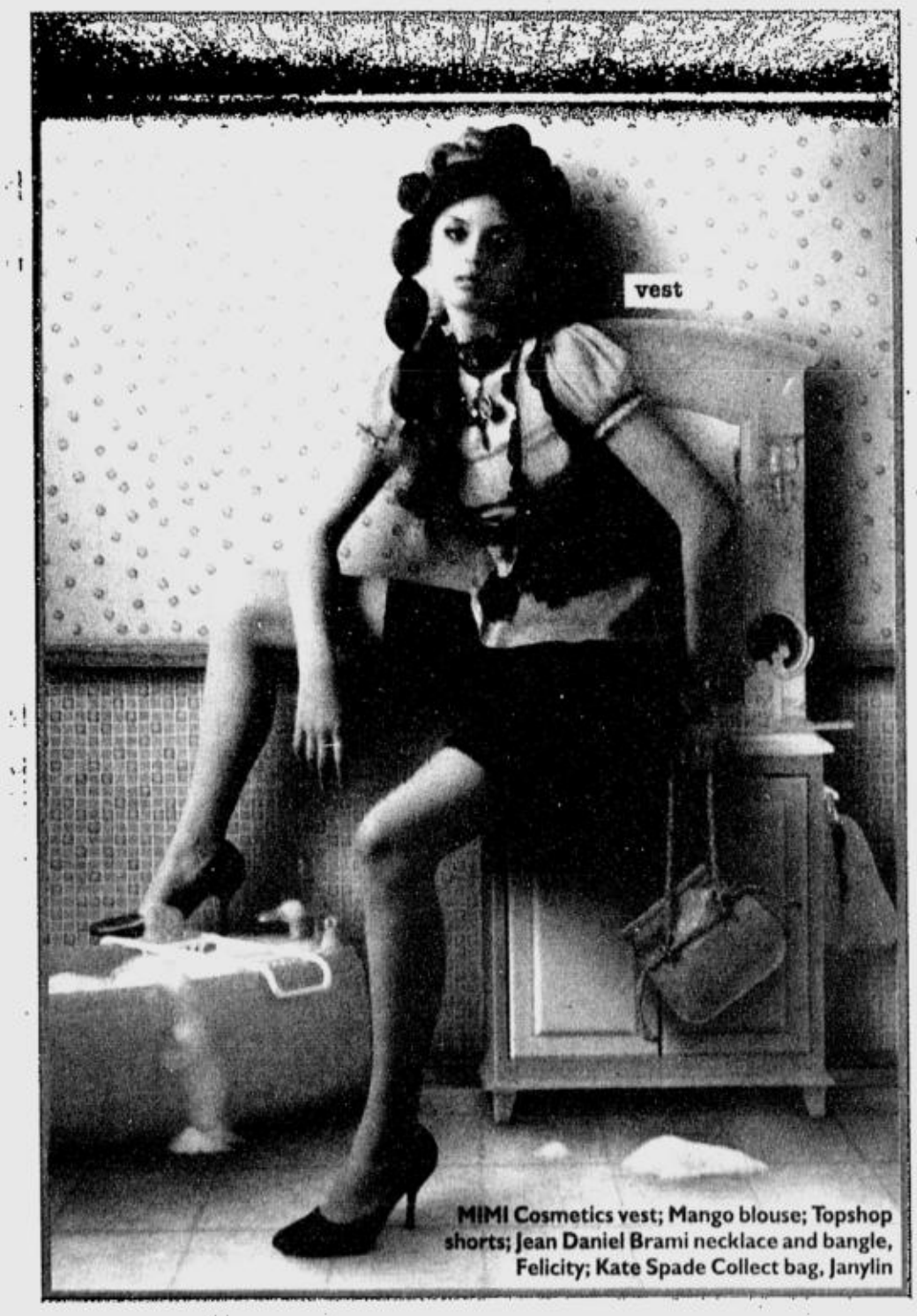
The essentials: Going clubbing allows you to be more adventurous in your choice of color, so my advice would be to go bold and don tops in unique colors like pinks, oranges and yellows to match the energy of the Manila nightlife. Not all deals are sealed in the boardroom, and more often than not, clients can become gimmick partners, too. You simply can't go wrong with these two style pegs when your goal is to impress people with your effortless style. As proven in our makeover, real men can wear pink and can actually get away with it, too.

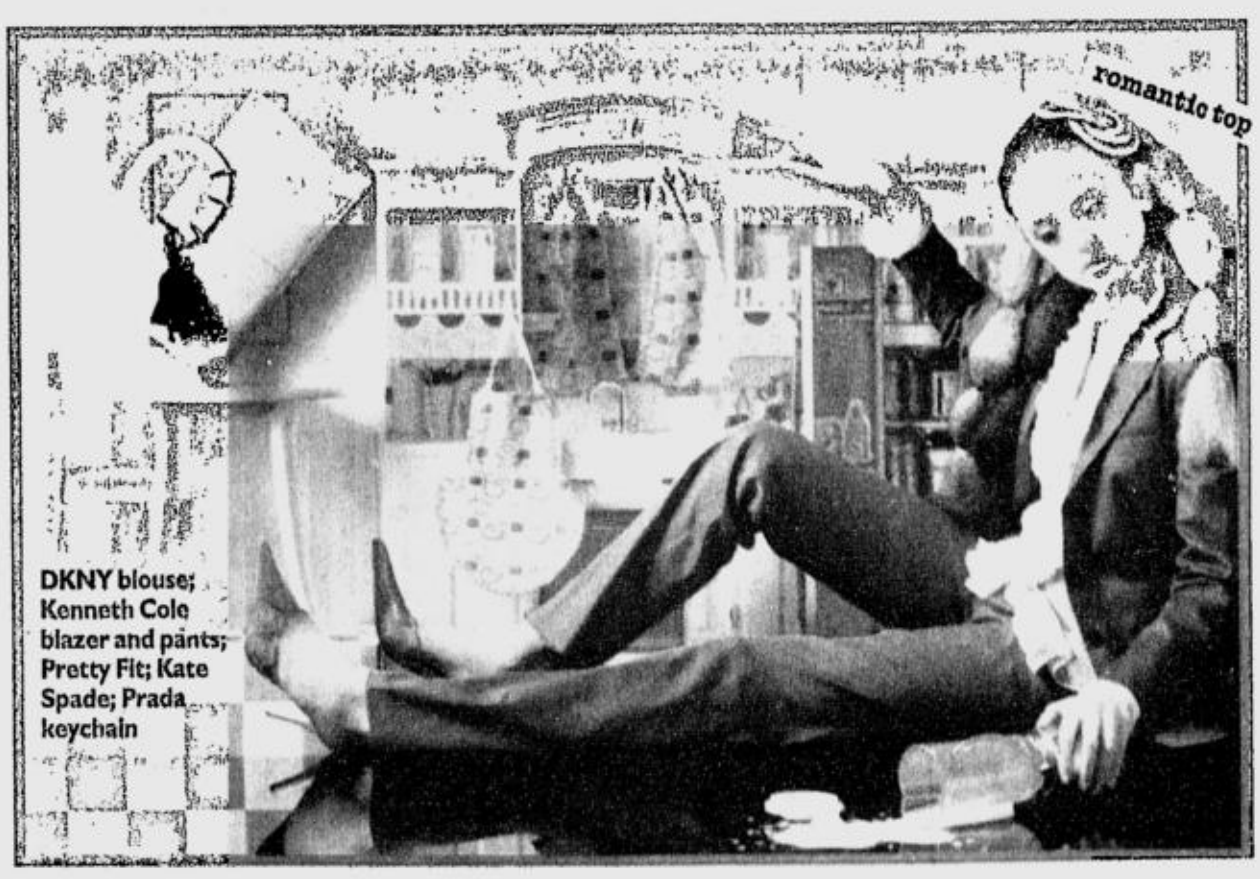
Each issue of INQUIRER Fashion is a full house of style trends and inspirations

Full house

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.
"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat.
"We're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."
"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.
"You must be," said the Cat, or you wouldn't have come here."

—from "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll





By Jenni Epperson

MABUHAY, FASHIONISTAS! YOU don't have to follow a rabbit in a waistcoat with a pocket watch to start your fashion adventure. Here at INQUIRER Fashion, trends, must-haves and styling tips are literally at your fingertips. Each issue will be jampacked with the season's best and how they can work for you! Because just like the Cat, you're probably as mad as we are about finding out what's hot, what fits your budget and where.

Like for most firsts, I wanted to make some noise; the kind that is almost irritating yet so addicting—like the *ati-atihan* (being awakened by the hypnotic beat of the drums on a Sunday morning with a hangover, but how can one resist shouting *hala bira*!).

Behold, (tah-dah!) The Next Big Thing, our maiden issue. And there's only one way to make a big impression. Nope, I'm not giving away P100,000 worth of clothes. Yet. It's actually better; I've narrowed down five of the season's must-have pieces that will surely get you invited to any of Alice's tea parties.

Here are the top five must-have pieces and how to mix and match them with your existing pieces (hold the tiered skirt please, it's time to keep it. Actually, it's become a tired skirt already, if you ask me):

Voluminous wraps. Pouf, puffy and pretty adventurous wraps are this season's pashmina. You don't have to be Annette Dela Renta or Celia Rodriguez to pull off this dramatic accouterment. Have it made to your proportions. I suggest you go to Puey Quinones (0916-7763098). He makes the hippest wraps, perfect for any formal affair such as a black-tie event or weddings. If you can't shake off your denim habit, dress it down with a tank top, jeans, sky-high stilettos and a long-strand necklace.

Knee-high boots. Forget about looking like *binaha*. Let's be honest, the true fashionista in you is dying to wear one, so grab a pair (or more), quick, at Zara. Forget about what your family and enemy will say, boots look great paired with skinny jeans. (Okay, you don't have to be anorexic to wear one. Actually, jeans cut close to the legs are more flattering than baggy ones.) I found really nice ones at Levi's (540) and Lee Supa Tube (in black). Pair it with a cotton tee, especially ones from Loungerie Lux (available on Nov. 10 at MIX)—they're so cuuuute!

Military jacket. Attention all yuppies! Fall out and head to Zara, Topshop and Mango for the best military jackets. It's the perfect option to your classic blazer. If you are flat-chested, the double-breasted style is the best. Stay clear of it, though, if you're top-heavy. Pair it with a pencil cut skirt, jeans or capris.

Vest. Channel your inner Kate or Sienna and try on a vest. Keep the manly threads feminine by pairing it with a sheer top or a funky tee in pink, or dare to wear it just as a top and pair it with a long black skirt.

Romantic top. Fall in love season after season with this already classic piece. From last season's poet's shirt to this season's equestrian appeal, this soft, delicate shirt can woo any man and make him fall in love with you (or at least make him want to take it off you!). Get it right with a good tailored suit in bold colors. Power-dressing has never been this sexy.

Bermuda shorts. This baby has come a long way, from male Bermudians who originally wore them as dress shorts paired with Oxford shirts for work, to the UPS delivery guy, and now, to Culte Femme designer Hindy Weber-Tantoco's hip version. In Hindy's hands, the weird-length trousers (is it long shorts or short pants?) has become the coolest, hippest thang since vintage T-shirts.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

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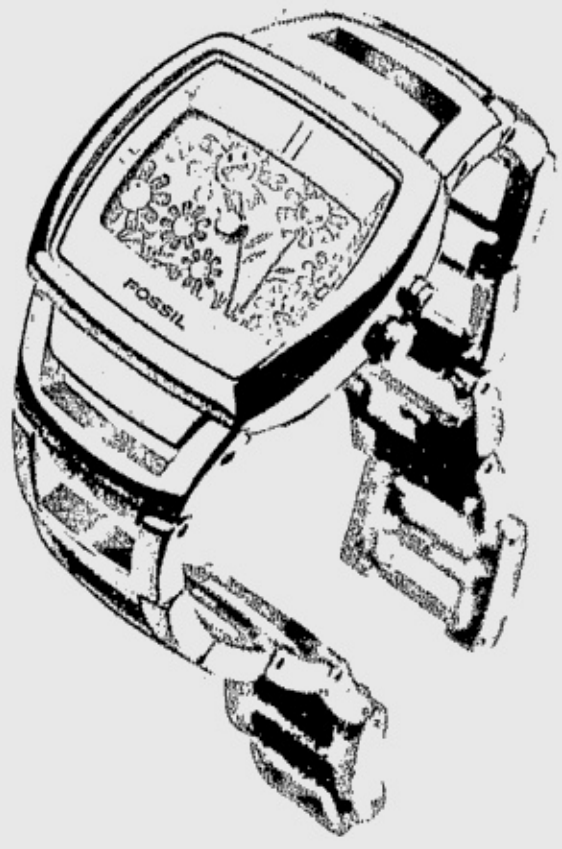
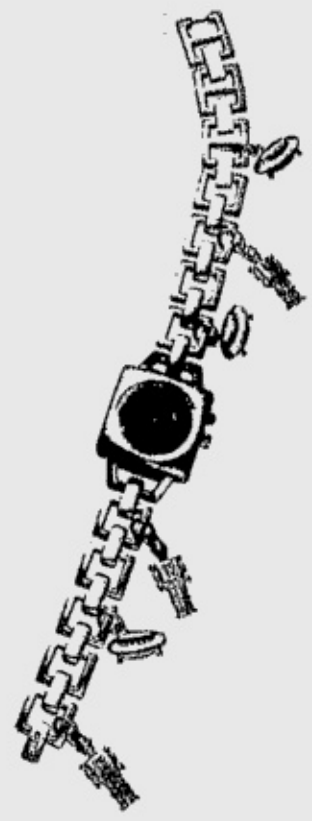
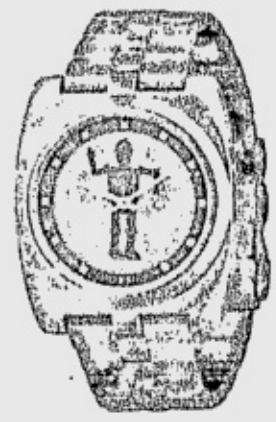
The Big Tic Man







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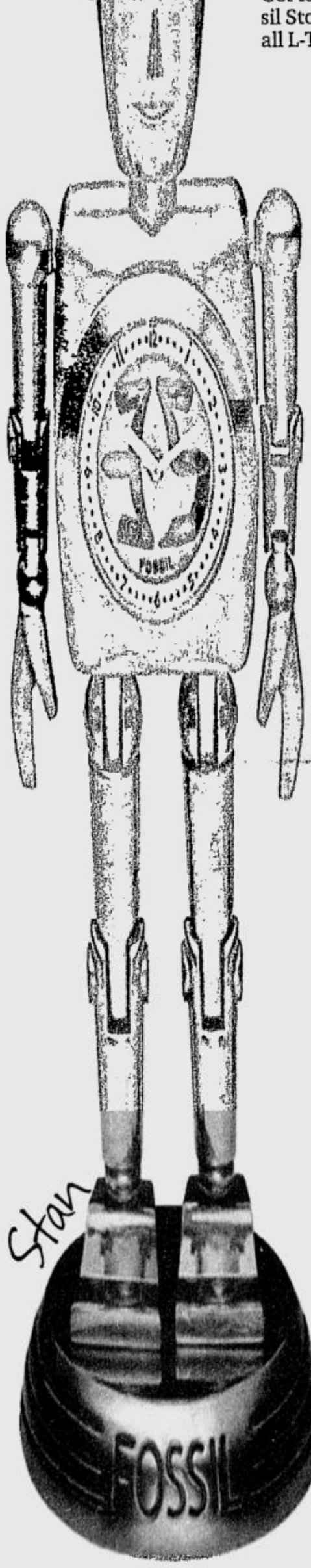

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Super-style it!

Text and photos by Katrina Cruz

THEY CAME... ARMED WITH loads of cash, a credit card, a willing mother or a duped boyfriend, and a steely demeanor to quench their lingering thirst for high street fashion.

They saw... an armful of goods—items in black, high boots, military fashion, enough to keep their adrenaline pumping and blood rushing until the next Zara purchase.

They conquered... and went home happy, a mass of eager weekend shoppers armed with fab, stylish loot.

MARIVI Co, 24

CRISSY Ancheta, 24

PAM Romualdez, 28

ELIZABETH Silva, 29

CLAUDINE Lucban, 14

NYX de Jesus, 15

MABELLE del Mundo, 29

KATHERINE Ong, 14

RICA Alberto, 18

MIA Manzagaang, 29

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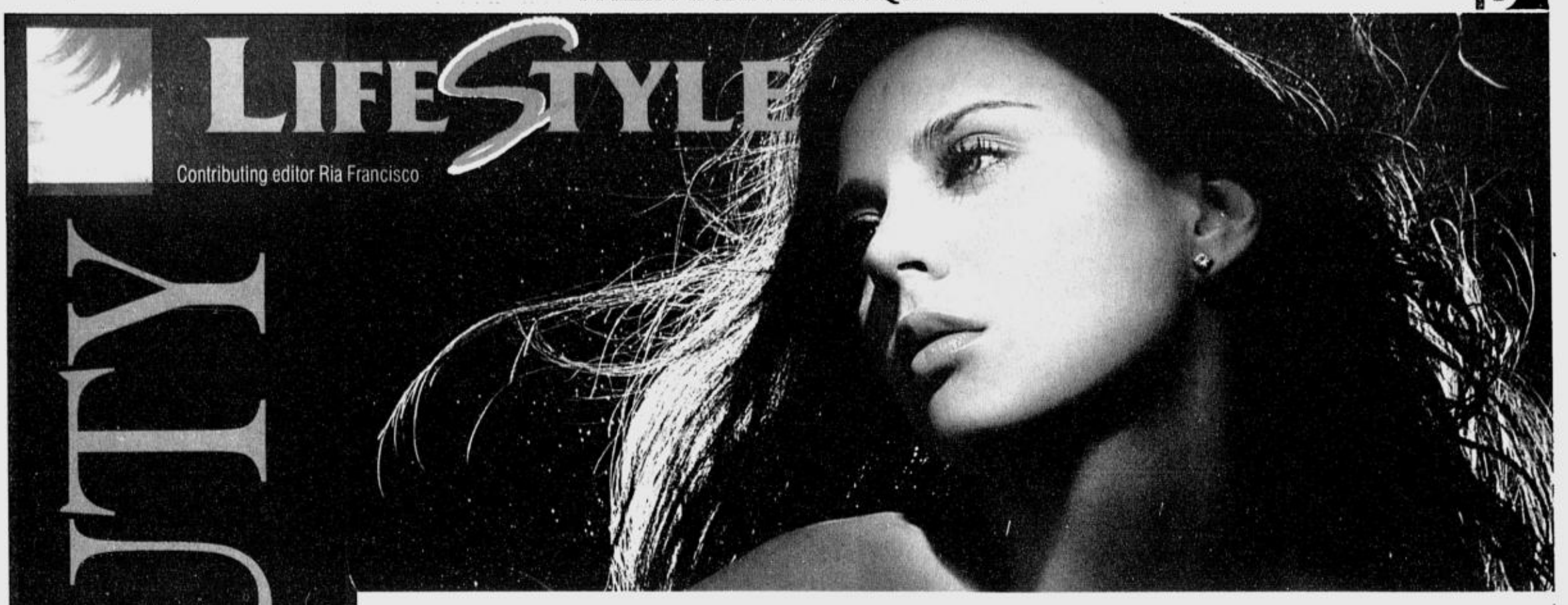
LIFESTYLE

Contributing editor Ria Francisco



BEAUTY

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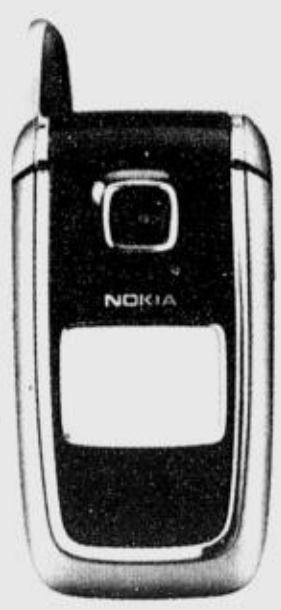

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Purple punch

Get into the season by trying out this royal color

By Ria Francisco

EVERYBODY'S BEEN HIT BY THE color purple! It is everywhere, from high fashion to street wear, and, yes, rightfully, on your favorite makeup palettes.

Whether lavender, lilac, mauve or amethyst, this royal color is a definite must-have.

I fell in love with the color purple when I noticed makeup artists using the paler tone on models to brighten up their eyes. Luckily, due to the constant bombardment of makeup, I have a chance to try shades on me that I will never buy over the counter.

Since my first swipe of purple, I've been hooked. Being a person who isn't really big on daring makeup colors, I've opened my eyes to this shade and to other brighter colors.

During the day, opt for a light shade like lavender. With an eye shadow brush, dust on from your inner lids going out. If you are not good with the use of a brush, try cream eye shadow and swipe on with the use of your beauty/ring finger. (Your fourth digit is best since it is the weakest, thus tugging your skin less.)

If you want a more dramatic look, go for deep shades. Layer on the dark shade over your light day makeup if you have to proceed straight to a night party.

With the use of a thin, dense brush, add color from your outer lid to the crease. The secret to great makeup, especially when using loud color, is in the blending. I have discovered that the easiest way to do this is by adding a last layer of the lightest shade all over the lids. This minimizes abrupt color or shade change and gives your eye makeup a clean finish.

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When deciding on a blush to use, go for soft shades. And when it comes to lips, always remember to choose your hues based on the intensity of your eye makeup. This is what I always try to make a mental note of, since I honestly have a hard time picking what lippie to use. So I tell myself, "O.D.-ing is never good!"

It's a really simple formula: Light eyes go with brighter colors, and dramatic eyes go with a nude shade.

Get into the season. The easiest way is by trying out this season's color. Let purple reign!

E-mail the author at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOGRAPHY XANDER ANGELES FOR EDGE OF LIGHT 0918-9041344
MAKEUP XENG ZULUETA FOR SHU UEMURA
STYLING RIA FRANCISCO
MODEL CHESKA GARCIA

Beauty with a cause

No surprise that a bottle of the Shu Uemura cleansing wonder is sold every 30 seconds all over the world

By Lora Gahol

FINDING A BEAUTY PRODUCT WHOSE value goes beyond the science of formulation and the aesthetics of packaging is rare. Most are only as good as the last drop dispensed from their containers.

Perhaps this is because very few products reach the status that deserves such a gift of worth—a status that can only be defined by time, and, more importantly, quality that transcends it.

One of the products that have been elevated on this pedestal by the ever-growing standards of the beauty industry is Shu Uemura Cleansing Oil.

It is no secret that countless dressers are home to this cult product, and no surprise that a bottle of this cleansing wonder is sold every 30 seconds all over the world. The mystery is in how it remains a constant in a fickle industry that is dictated by demands that change as often as seasons do.

Beginning with history

Back in the 1950's, Shu Uemura was more known as the man behind the beautifully made-up faces of Hollywood icons like Shirley MacLaine. During the time when pancake makeup ruled supreme, it was a baffling mystery to Shu Uemura how actresses maintained the suppleness and youthful quality of their complexion.

It was then that he discovered how the use of oil for getting rid of all traces of makeup was a more effective option for cleansing. The actresses' product of choice was simply called Unmasked.

Uemura brought this formula back to Japan and commissioned a team of chemists to break down the chemical formula of the oil, added his own blend of ingredients to its basic components, and, in 1960, Shu Uemura Cleansing Oil was born.

Established by quality

Since then, many spin-offs of the cleansing oil have occupied shelf space all over the world, none of them even coming close to the success of Shu Uemura's formula.

The secret? Rare deep sea water, the purest water on earth, concocted by nature over a span of 2,000 years, the very ingredient that makes the cleansing oil impossible to duplicate. Shu Uemura has made it his life's work to bring this miracle water available to us through his products.

Developed with technology

Part of the oil's continuing success is how it has adapted to the requirements set by the many different skin types and lifestyles its users possess. With the help of research and new discoveries, we are now able to enjoy the cleansing benefits of the oil—and more—according to our individual needs.

The Classic variant remains to be the weapon of choice for users with combination skin—very common among us Asians. Those with dry, flaky skin will appreciate the extra nourishment of the Rich formula. Oily complexions (common even among those way past adolescence!) have found a must-have in the newest Fresh variant with Alpha-hydroxy acids that also help exfoliate skin and tighten pores.

The best-selling green tea-based Premium cleansing oil covers all bases with soothing anti-oxidant and anti-aging properties.

Shu Uemura leaves no need overlooked with the oil's many incarnations—and you without a reason not to allow your skin its benefits.

Infused with art

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The artwork becomes more than just the product of brushstrokes. Each tells a story that flows from one season to the next, becoming portraits of the cycle of life, becoming the perfect harmony of science and aesthetics, much like the cleansing oil itself.

Driven by a cause

Beauty does not stop at what the eyes can see. Shu Uemura goes by this truth as it expands its reach through charity. A percentage of the sales of the limited-edition cleansing oils (now available at Shu Uemura counters) will go to L'Arche Foundation, an organization for special children.

More than this, Shu Uemura will be holding the formal launch of this project on Nov. 9, highlighted by an auction of Ai Yamaguchi Hake Brush Sets, Ai Yamaguchi Lithographs and complete cleansing oil sets in special limited-edition boxes, all the proceeds of which will also be donated to the L'Arche Foundation.

Shu Uemura cleansing oils are perfect representations of beauty that knows no bounds: timeless, unique, special. With each bottle, we are privileged to experience more than just looking good—we feel good and do good as well.

Because, at the end of the day, isn't that what real beauty is all about?

Shu Uemura is at Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Tower, Edsa Shangri-La.

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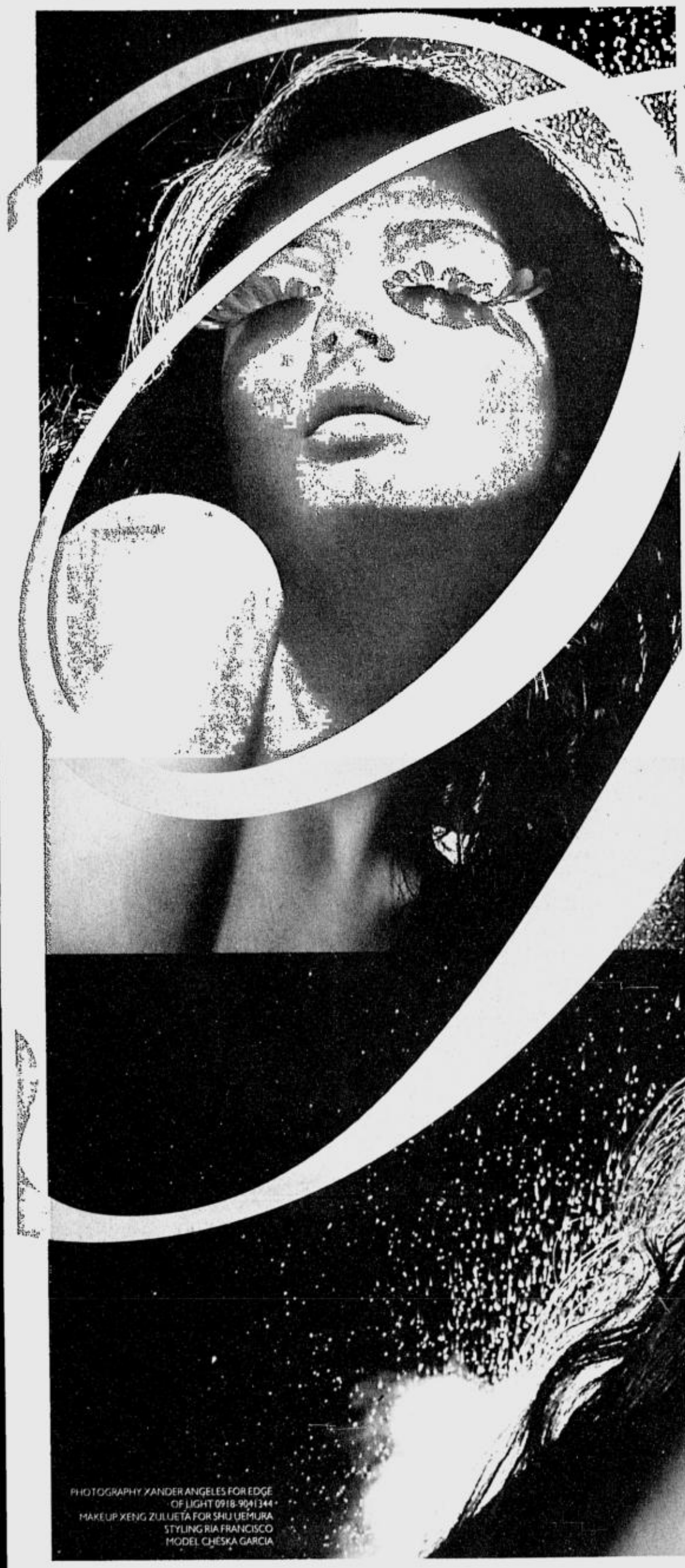

Purple punch

Get into the season by trying out this royal color

By Ria Francisco

EVERYBODY'S BEEN HIT BY THE color purple! It is everywhere, from high fashion to street wear, and, yes, rightfully, on your favorite makeup palettes.

Whether lavender, lilac, mauve or amethyst, this royal color is a definite must-have.

I fell in love with the color purple when I noticed makeup artists using the paler tone on models to brighten up their eyes. Luckily, due to the constant bombardment of makeup, I have a chance to try shades on me that I will never buy over the counter.

Since my first swipe of purple, I've been hooked. Being a person who isn't really big on daring makeup colors, I've opened my eyes to this shade and to other brighter colors.

During the day, opt for a light shade like lavender. With an eye shadow brush, dust on from your inner lids going out. If you are not good with the use of a brush, try cream eye shadow and swipe on with the use of your beauty/ring finger. (Your fourth digit is best since it is the weakest, thus tugging your skin less.)

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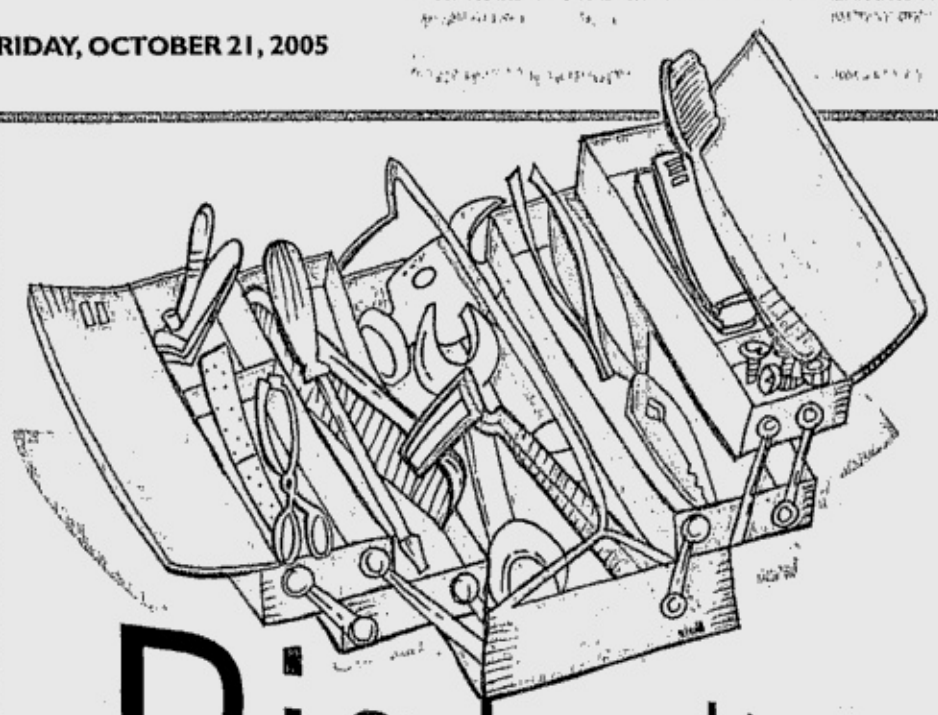

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Big boys' tools

By Ria Francisco

YOU DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE A metrosexual to earn the right to own these top five grooming tools. If anyone thinks otherwise, think again.

After all, from a girl's point of view, nose hair will never be sexy. Do I even have to explain why? I think not. So here are the tools you should have handy in your toiletry kit.

1. Nose hair clipper. As I mentioned earlier, this tool clips your hair so you won't have the urge to try to pluck it off or tuck it in. I asked a couple of my male friends what they would do, and those were their answers.

There are actually two types of clippers to pick from: the traditional one that looks like little bent scissors, and the one designed to conform to the shape of your nose.

For men who have thick nose hair, opt for the manual nose hair clippers. Electrical clippers are painless and, more importantly, not dangerous. Since its tip is oval, you don't nick any skin off. It takes less than two seconds to use. Besides, all you have to do is stick it in and your battery-operated tool will do the job for you.

2. Fingernail clipper. Let me make this really simple. Scissors that you find on your desk are a no-no when it comes to your nails. When out on a date and a girl notices that your nails are longer than hers, it only means two things: You are unhygienic, or you like your nails long to pick your nose. Either one is a big turn-off.

3. Toenail clipper. Yes, you have to use one made especially for your toes. Since toenails are harder and larger than your fingernails, the clippers are also larger and more durable than your fingernail clippers.

When cutting your nails, it is advisable to start on both sides, then clip off the middle and just follow the natural growth line to prevent your toes from hurting.

Remember, you are a man, not Wolverine.

4. Tweezers. Okay, this may sound a little farfetched, but it is always handy to have, just in case you have stray hair you can't shave off. Cleanse before plucking to avoid getting zits or blackheads.

5. Shaver. There are two types of shavers: the razor that you buy over the counter, which needs shaving cream; and the high-tech electric shaver.

It is good to invest in an electric shaver. Not only can you dry-shave with it, you also don't get nasty nicks and instead end up with a cleaner shave. Though it would also be smart to have a razor in tow just in case you experience blackout. Or invest in a battery-operated one.

I'm sure you have at least two out of five already. If you don't, I hope you do at least use a toothbrush.

E-mail the author at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

Pasyal

Family lunch

Mass

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LAS HACIENDAS

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CLARINS Extra Firming Day Cream

GUERLAIN Issima Midnight Secret

Bountiful beauty

TODAY, THE FIRST GUERLAIN counter opens at Rustan's Tower at Shangri-La Edsa mall. Guerlain is famous for its meteorites powder and Midnight Secret skin treatment.

Midnight Secret has a huge following among Hollywood actors because it specializes in giving the skin that youthful glow as if you have had 8-10 hours sleep. Brides-to-be invest in this because nobody really gets to sleep the night before the wedding day. But since all eyes will be on them, they are under pressure to look radiant and be at their most beautiful. The results: No puffiness and great glowing skin.

Kinny Salas

Scents to suit the season

La Prairie Silver Rain (P8,400) came as a bit of a surprise. Going by its name, I thought it was another aquatic scent but it actually qualifies as a gourmand fragrance the likes of Thierry Mugler Angel and Lolita Lempicka. It is a fruity-floral with a creamy vanilla base. Those who don't like sweet scents should stay away.

Annick Goutal Passion (P3,500) is a mixture of tuberose (*dama de noche*), jasmine and vanilla. A little goes a long way, and I would not recommend it to women under 30. Only a woman of some substance and glamour can wear it with aplomb.

Day fragrance

BeComing Pretty by Avon. About five years ago I fell in love with an Avon fragrance. It was Josie by Josie Natori, a bouquet of refreshing white flowers with a slight citrus twist that the guys seemed to love on me. When it was discontinued I went nuts.

I think it's safe to say it is now back in the form of BeComing Pretty with only a slight variation, if any. Call 8642900 for inquiries.

Anti-aging treatments

Clarins Lift Minceur Visage (contouring facial lift) actually works like a mini Cosmecanique Lift Six treatment from Belo. Continued use gives the face more contours and pulls minor double chin up.

Ask the salesperson to teach you the Clarins facial massage technique which stimulates lymphatic drainage to eliminate the skin's toxins and impurities to maximize the contour facial lift's effects.

Shu Uemura ACE Beta G Signs Preventing Essence (P4,995) is directed at those from age 28-35. It is not as rich as the other Beta G Essence, which is made for more mature skin and causes those with oilier skin to break out. Beta Glucan increases skin's resistance to environmental aggressors and firms it up.

I use this at night and I notice that when I wake up in the morning, my skin is so firm without the usual pillow marks and is a lot less puffy.

Pro Principe Pore Perfecting Solution (P2,995). One sign of aging is the increased size of pores. This is due to the breakdown of collagen fibers. It causes the skin to sag and pores to stretch.

Pro Principe camouflages them upon application, giving the skin a smoother surface. It helps skin cell turnover and provides nourishment for clearer refined skin. Its matte but hydrating texture is perfect for normal to oily skin and works as a fantastic foundation primer.

Origins A Perfect World Antioxidant Moisturizer with White Tea. The feedback on this is mixed. Half of my "test" subjects got glowing skin that looked "alive," smoother in tone and texture, and firmer. The other half got major skin breakouts.

Those who got positive results had very dry, sun-damaged skin, and those with negative results had normal to oily or dry but sensitive skin. So if you break out at the slightest provocation, stay away. If you are a frequent airplane-traveler and sun-worshipper, give it a try.

Clarins Extra Firming Day Cream and Extra Firming Night Cream. Specifically designed to be used from the moment you mark your 40th birthday, which signifies a major change for skin in terms of firmness, elasticity and texture.

This duo assists the skin that just hit 40 to regain its youthful glow and texture. The day cream has a floral scent that energizes the user and the night cream has the soothing scent of vanilla for a goodnight's sleep.

Email the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com.

SHU Uemura's ACE B-G Signs Preventing Essence

LA Prairie's Silver Rain Collection: perfume, candle and body cream

ORIGINS' A Perfect World White Tea Skin Guardian and Perfect World Antioxidant Moisturizer

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

LUXE look

Spanish 'fast-fashion' giant Zara opens its first Philippine store at Rockwell's Power Plant Mall

FOUR letters say it all.

Iberian invasion

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

RETAILERS OF LOCAL AND foreign fashion brands are probably quaking in their designer boots as Spanish "fast-fashion" giant Zara invades Manila.

Stores Specialists Inc., Zara's exclusive distributor in the Philippines, recently opened its first store at the Rockwell's Power Plant Mall with a fashion show even as guests were shopping.

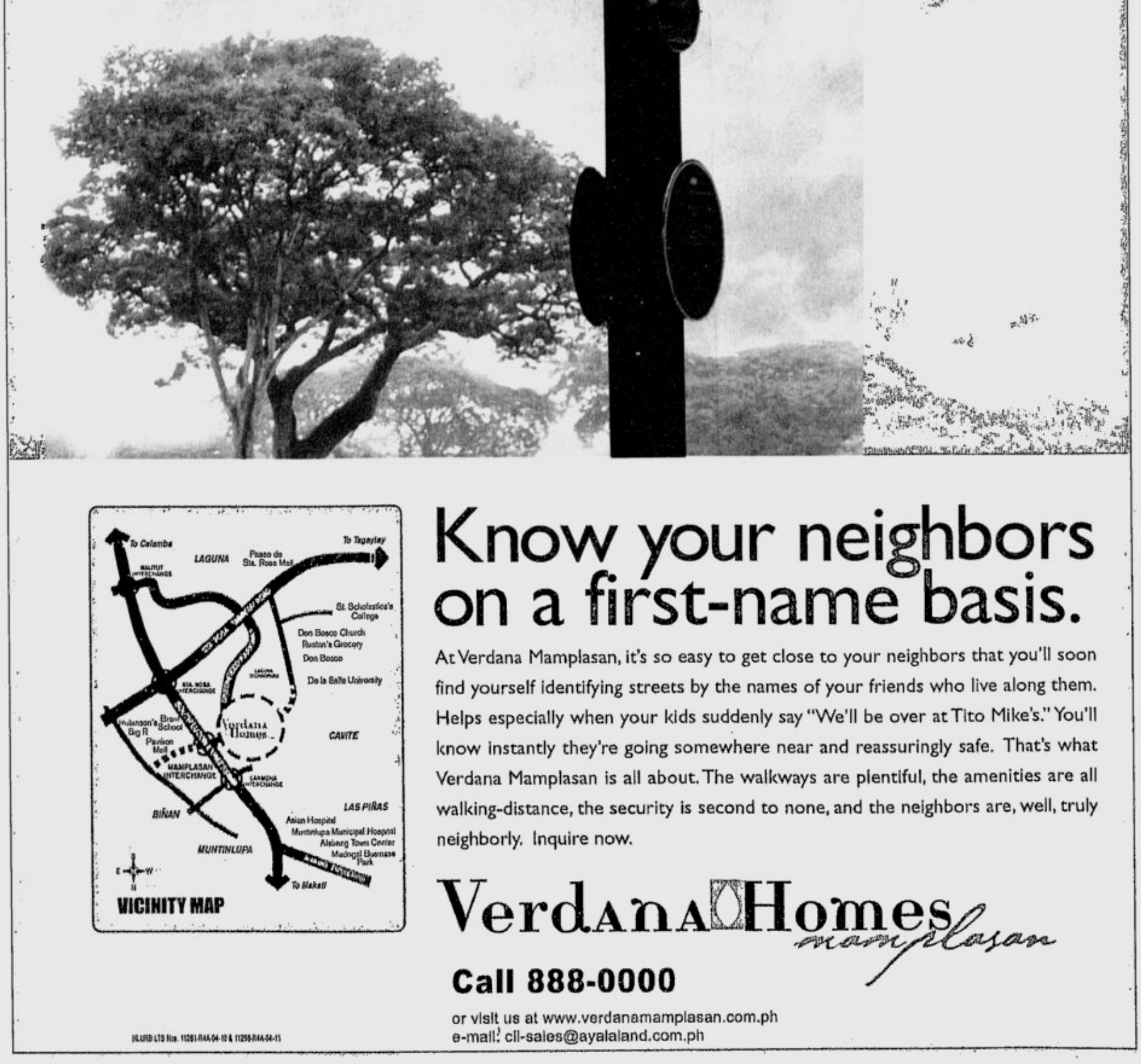
The sprawling 1,007-sq m space (the one formerly occupied by Fully Booked) is divided into men's, ladies' and children's wings. Established in 1975, Zara now has 750 outlets in 58 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. But why open only now in supposedly fashion-forward Philippines?

"It took us a while to open a store in Manila," says Anthony Huang, executive vice president of SSI, "because we had to wait until the brand has gained a bigger presence in Asia."

He assures Filipino fashionistas that Zara's Manila store will be on par with other Zara stores elsewhere in Asia. In fact, Huang says their prices are almost the same as Hong

IBERIAN/ E4

THOSE knee-high boots are meant to be seen.



Know your neighbors on a first-name basis.

At Verdana Mamplasan, it's so easy to get close to your neighbors that you'll soon find yourself identifying streets by the names of your friends who live along them. Helps especially when your kids suddenly say "We'll be over at Tito Mike's." You'll know instantly they're going somewhere near and reassuringly safe. That's what Verdana Mamplasan is all about. The walkways are plentiful, the amenities are all walking-distance, the security is second to none, and the neighbors are, well, truly neighborly. Inquire now.

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THREE EMINENT doctors. Dr. Jennifer Hua, Dr. James Ford and Dr. Diana Cua-Balcells

It's in the genes

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

YES, MY *PALANGGAS*. GENES ARE involved in breast cancer development, but only five to 10 percent of cases are actually inherited.

If breast cancer runs in your family, don't march to your doctor for an immediate mastectomy. Have "the gene testing" first.

Rustan's Essenses, along with three civic-minded women who care—**Sigalit Djemal**, top cancer specialist Dr. **Diana Cua-Balcells** and young cancer crusader **Ria Romero**—mounted a fantastic no-nonsense talk by renowned cancer genetics specialist Dr. **James Ford** of the Stanford University Hospital in the United States.

It was a well-attended lecture with the crowd spilling over to the sidewalk.

The *tres* interesting program kicked off with obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. **Jenny Hua-Koong** emphasizing the importance of mammogram for women aged 35 and above for early detection of breast cancer.

It was followed by a very emotional account from Sigalit Djemal of her constant fear of developing the dreaded disease "because of my family's very strong history of breast cancer."

Next speaker was the eminent Dr. Ford who talked about how a mere blood test could determine if one had inherited a mutated breast cancer gene. A negative result would mean a person would not have a high chance of getting the Big C!

Unfortunately, the test is not yet available here. In fact, the ultra-delicate gene testing is currently being done by just one laboratory in the US.

But other alternatives were mentioned by Dr. Ford for the prevention of breast cancer, including "close monitoring through mammogram and breast MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)" and the use of the drug Tamoxifen and ovarian ablation (removal of diseased tissue) to manage the disease.

During the question-and-answer session, I was truly amazed and totally impressed by the many super vital and interesting issues raised. The 4-6 p.m. affair went on till past 7 p.m.

Sigalit D. prepared a most delicious variety of finger foods that guests enjoyed after the event.

Yes, gals, get those very important checkups, sooner than soon. October is World Cancer Awareness Month.

Always remember *palanggas*, your health is definitely your wealth.

Ladies fight TB

Some personas may think women of society are frivolous, vain and self-centered. Vain, yes, and why not? Even us lesser mortals can be vain. Frivolous and self-centered? May be a few.

But definitely not these women of means, *palanggas*, who take time out from their daily social schedule to work together in fighting tuberculosis. Why? Simply because TB still ranks as one of the top killer-diseases in the Philippines.

Okay, check this out, *palanggas*. Statistics show that about 75 Filipinos die of TB every day and 200 out of every 100,000 Filipinos are afflicted with this silent killer.

The Philippine Tuberculosis Society Inc. (PTSI) has been on the forefront in the campaign against TB. It maintains two divisions—the Field Operations and Research and Training Division and the Quezon Institute named after one of the disease's most prominent victims, the late President **Manuel L. Quezon**.

And because of economic difficulties, subsidies from the government and the private sector have been drastically reduced, would you believe?

Now, enter our civic-oriented society gals, *palanggas*, to raise funds for various programs. The PTSI is sponsoring a benefit dinner-dance at the horse-y set's favorite stable, the Manila Polo Club's main lounge, natch, on Nov. 4.

Incumbent PTSI president **Zenaida Quezon-Avanceña**, no less, appealed to people "to give their all-out support to the affair."

"My father was one of the victims of this dreaded disease," Zenaida Avanceña told the gathering. "TB need not be fatal. All we have to do is educate people how to combat it."

Lally Laurel-Trinidad, niece of the late Vice President **Doy Laurel**, is the chair of this year's Anti-TB Fund campaign. **Concepcion "Nonie" Basilio**, chair of the special events division, is going all out to make this year's fund-raising event a success.

Hey, these dedicated ladies need all the support they can get for "the eradication of tuberculosis as a killer-disease." Let's get rolling and do our share, people. For ticket inquiries, do call 7813747 and 7813757.

Premium brands

Hey, are you ready for this? Well, the latest gadgets for the two places I love most in my pad—the kitchen and my bedroom—can be found at the Maytag and Tempur stores at the fifth level of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, which held their joint grand opening.

Some of the products, originally developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the '70s, are world-renowned for their durability and dependability.

"Maytag promises to give consumers even better quality with its line of laundry and refrigeration products," *moi* was told. The laundry line offers bigger capacity, while the fridge has the widest cooling and freezing space.

Present during the opening were hotshots from the US Embassy, like acting deputy chief of mission **Scott Bellard** and commercial attaché **Brent Omdahl**; **Simon Walsh** and **Stephen Thirgood**, Tempur's director and business development head, respectively, for South East Asia; **Rufus Tseng**, Maytag regional sales manager, plus others like them.

In the real cool space cabin, invitees tried the extraordinary comfort of Tempur mattresses and pillows. Well-known celebrity and gorgeous mother-to-be **Bianca Araneta**, the first customer of Tempur, was all praises.

"When you're lying on this mattress, you feel so relaxed that you don't ever want to leave the comfort of your bed."

As always, dahlings, several lucky winners went home with some real cool prizes. **Stephen Sy** said, "It's a sign of good things to come."

Well, *palanggas*, half of the first shipment was sold out right there and then. Check them out and call 6311391. Tempur and Maytag are exclusively distributed by Focus Global Inc.

SOFIA Zobel, Maritoni Fernandez and Kate Fernandez

BO ROS, Ria Romero, and Essenses' Toni Abad and Robby da Silva

KITKAT Zobel, Pilie Aquino, Gina Roxas and Carla Tengo

DAWN Zulueta Lagdameo with Maricris Floirendo

MIA Floirendo-Brias

SIGALIT Djemal gives an emotional account of breast cancer in her *famille*.

MISSY Ayala, Debbie Yabut and Peninsula Hotel First Lady Marilou Batchelor

SHARMILA Hiranan, Lizzie Zobel, Bea Zobel Jr. and Kitkat Zobel

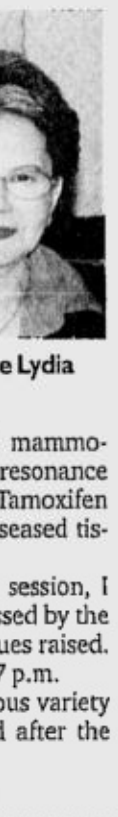
CECILLE Olonan and Vicky Cadungog

TESS Castro and Kim Lokin

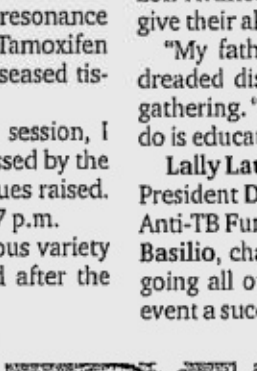
LALLY Trinidad and Concepcion "Nonie" Basilio, this year's anti-TB special events division chair

MITZI Piad

ZENAIDA Quezon-Avanceña, dedicated president of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society Inc.



MAYTAG sales and marketing manager Rufus Tseng



MAYTAG regional sales manager Chuck Park

LOLI SY, Focus Global vice president; Simon Walsh, Tempur director for sales; Stephen Thirgood, Tempur business development manager; Scott Bellard, US Embassy acting deputy chief of mission; and Stephen Sy, Focus Global president

ELIZA Pacho takes home a Tempur pillow.

THE MARKETING team: Shallum Lee, Shelly Salazar, Maytag brand manager Tess Blanch, Focus Global marketing manager Aline Lopez, Tempur brand manager Erika Saenz, Sheryl Chan, Adelle Hermogenes; (at the back) Miguel La'O and Dairy Darilag

ELIZA Reambillo and Edna Anenaias

NENA and Fred Borromeo, Chinit Rufino, Charlie Rufino and Johnny Litton

CORA Suntay, vivacious Esther Sallee, Bambina and Karen Buenaventura

HENRIE and Marsha Santos with Lizzy Razon and Stephen Sy

Practical ideas for the home

METROPOLIS Star Alabang's Home Area offers free home improvement workshops. Tomorrow, Camella Homes presents an interior design exhibit and free interior decorating tips on color combination, furniture arrangement, room accents, wallpaper designs. Handyman and Black and Decker will conduct a hands-on instructional demo on how to make your own DVD rack using a variety of materials. Registration starts at 3 p.m. Call 8503845.

GOINGS ON

CONCERT. Flutist Gary Silangcruz and pianist Marsha Nicolas take center stage in Paco Park Presents' Romance for Flute and Piano. The event will be held tonight at 6 at Paco Park, San Marcelino, Manila. Admission is free.

DANCE. Ballet Manila and Kultura Pilipina will be featured tomorrow, 5 p.m., in Ballet at the Park. Venue is at Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park brings the fantasy world of Disney in Disney Music Plus, featuring the Rubato Ensemble. The program is set on Oct. 23, 5 p.m., at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

FESTIVAL. The Sulo Hotel presents Pistang Sulo at Café Paraiso and Lobby Lounge until Oct. 28. Call 9245051 to 71.

SYMPOSIUM. The Center for Pop Music Philippines will conduct Star Confidence symposium in Ambassador's Hotel Main Hall, Mabini St., Ermita, Manila. Call 8293314/ 8291970.

NOVENA. The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls holds a novena prayer starting Nov. 2, 9:45 a.m., in Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila. An Advent recollection will be held Nov. 5, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., in the worship hall of the Spirit of Love Catholic Community, Manila Seedling Bank, Edsa cor Quezon Ave. Call 5310394/ 5312157.

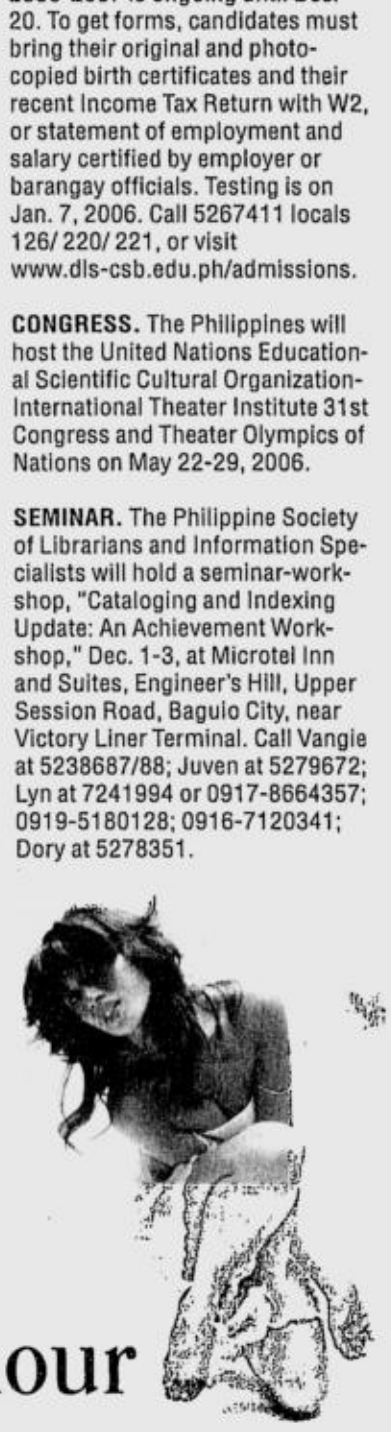
FUNDRAISER. The Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines will hold its annual fundraising ball, Carnevale Venezia on Nov. 8 at NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig. Proceeds will go to the National Museum, Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Soloists, Cultural Center of the Philippines Performing and Visual Artists.

CONCERT. The Jesuit Volunteers Philippines will hold a benefit concert, "The Joy of Sharing: Songs and Stories of Hope," on Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m., at Philamlife Theater, United Nations Avenue. Call 8919999/ 9279060/ 4265908.

SCHOLARSHIPS. De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde's School of Management and Information Technology offers scholarships to working students and professionals. Application for school year 2006-2007 is ongoing until Dec. 20. To get forms, candidates must bring their original and photocopied birth certificates and their recent Income Tax Return with W2, or statement of employment and salary certified by employer or barangay officials. Testing is on Jan. 7, 2006. Call 5267411 locals 126/ 220/ 221, or visit www.dls-csb.edu.ph/admissions.

CONGRESS. The Philippines will host the United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization-International Theater Institute 31st Congress and Theater Olympics of Nations on May 22-29, 2006.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists will hold a seminar-workshop, "Cataloging and Indexing Update: An Achievement Workshop," Dec. 1-3, at Microtel Inn and Suites, Engineer's Hill, Upper Session Road, Baguio City, near Victory Liner Terminal. Call Vangie at 5238687/88; Juven at 5279672; Lyn at 7241994 or 0917-8664357; 0919-5180128; 0916-7120341; Dory at 5278351.



Real glamour

THE SCHWARZKOPF PROFESSIONAL TEAM introduces its Essential Looks for Autumn-Winter 2005, four hair moods that distill the essence of high fashion from the catwalk shows of London, Paris, Milan and NY.

The evocative photographic images were created by top fashion photographer Simon Emmett, while the hair was directed by Schwarzkopf Global editorial ambassador Tyler Johnston in conjunction with Jonathan Duffy. Schwarzkopf Global colors ambassador Tracey Hayes was responsible for the all-important color dimension of the collection.

The clothes styling, "borrowed" from the rails of Balenciaga and Versace's own catwalk pieces, was by Lucy Manning.

Top Style, Inc., exclusive distributor of Schwarzkopf products in the country, will introduce Essential Looks Autumn-Winter 2005 to local salons and hairdressers at a Look and Learn Seminar to be conducted by Alex Carbonell, Philippine Schwarzkopf ambassador, on Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Schwarzkopf Studio, Eisenhower Condominium, Greenhills. Tickets are available at P1,000 on a first-come-first-served basis, with limited slots only.

Call Top Style at 7268507 to 08 for inquiries.

VOLUMINOUS

A Beauty Exclusive:
Aranáz Designs For Facial Care Centre

For its 23rd Anniversary, Facial Care Centre commissioned popular bag designer Amina Aranaz to create limited edition purses exclusively for its special guests. Aranáz, famous for its unique and exquisite creations is the perfect partner to the country's leading skincare center, Facial Care Centre as both brands exude luxury, vibrance and femininity.

Being a model and client of Facial Care Centre herself, Amina got her inspiration for the pieces from the marvelous beautifying effects women rave about whenever they have an FCC treatment. For this special occasion, she christened her creations: "Night Radiance", Glamour Rose" and Rose Sparkle". Using only select materials of swarovski crystals, rosettes, glass beads and rhinestones, each of the 3 bags was an original piece. "Each bag should complement the women's beauty and social status. They can't be mere accessories, they should bespeak their lifestyle," says the pretty designer.

BARBI CHAN

Perfect for partying, a romantic rendezvous or to jazz-up a simple outfit, the women definitely loved the anniversary memento. As top make-up artist Barbi Chan enthuses, "The bag is very stylish and unique! It's perfect for both casual and formal occasions." Indeed, it was the perfect treat for this beautiful occasion.

CARMI MARTIN

Facial Care Centre is giving out up to 40% discount on selected skincare programs this whole month of October. Be beautiful. Call 892-SKIN now to book your FREE consultation.

MALES in motion

SOFT dress paired with structured jacket

LEATHER bomber jacket

WHITE and black

Iberian invasion

From page E1

Kong's and lower than Singapore's.

Reasonable prices

The Power Plant store carries mostly Fall items such as smart-looking jackets, trench coats, suits, traveling bags and leather boots at reasonable and sometimes unbelievably low prices. Shirts, for instance, cost from P499-P1,999, while canvas, tweed and corduroy jackets (not the usual suiting materials other stores carry for a decidedly more mature clientele) range from P4,000-P15,000.

The store is also a rich source of evening dresses, skirts, blouses and fashionable outerwear that have the look and feel of more expensive designer brands for less. It must have been the lighting, but Zara's items have the uncanny ability to call on you even while perched on hangers. What's more, unlike in some stores, the place is far from cramped.

These attributes and the Filipino mentality to go gaga for anything imported are bound to make Zara the latest phenomenon to hit Philippine retailing. And since Zara carries a wide range of sizes, even certain local designers, who charge an arm and a leg for made-to-measure but pricey no-brainers, are likely to take a beating.

Latest stuff

In keeping with the speed with which Zara comes up with new items—twice a week from its creative team composed of nearly 200 professionals—Huang plans to stock up his store with the latest stuff at the same rate. But since Zara is into fast fashion, he can't guarantee that the same items will be there the next day.

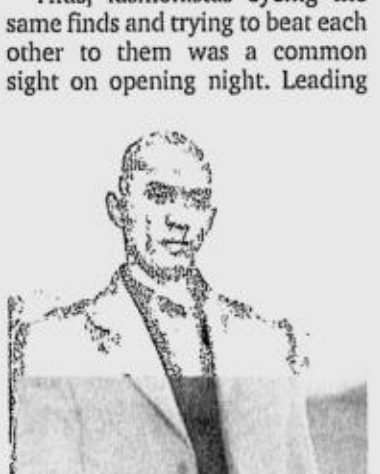
Thus, fashionistas eyeing the same finds and trying to beat each other to them was a common sight on opening night. Leading fashion designer Inno Sotto, for instance, bought several pieces of the same long-sleeved black shirt just to make sure he won't run out of his preferred uniform these days.

"It's not that we're limiting the supply," says Huang. "It's just the way Zara conducts business. Being a fast-fashion brand, it tries to keep shoppers happy and excited by constantly introducing new styles and materials."

This early, Huang plans to open a second branch at the more accessible Glorietta 3 also in Makati. Thus, the Spanish re-colonization of the Philippines—this time through something as benign as fashion—proceeds at full speed.

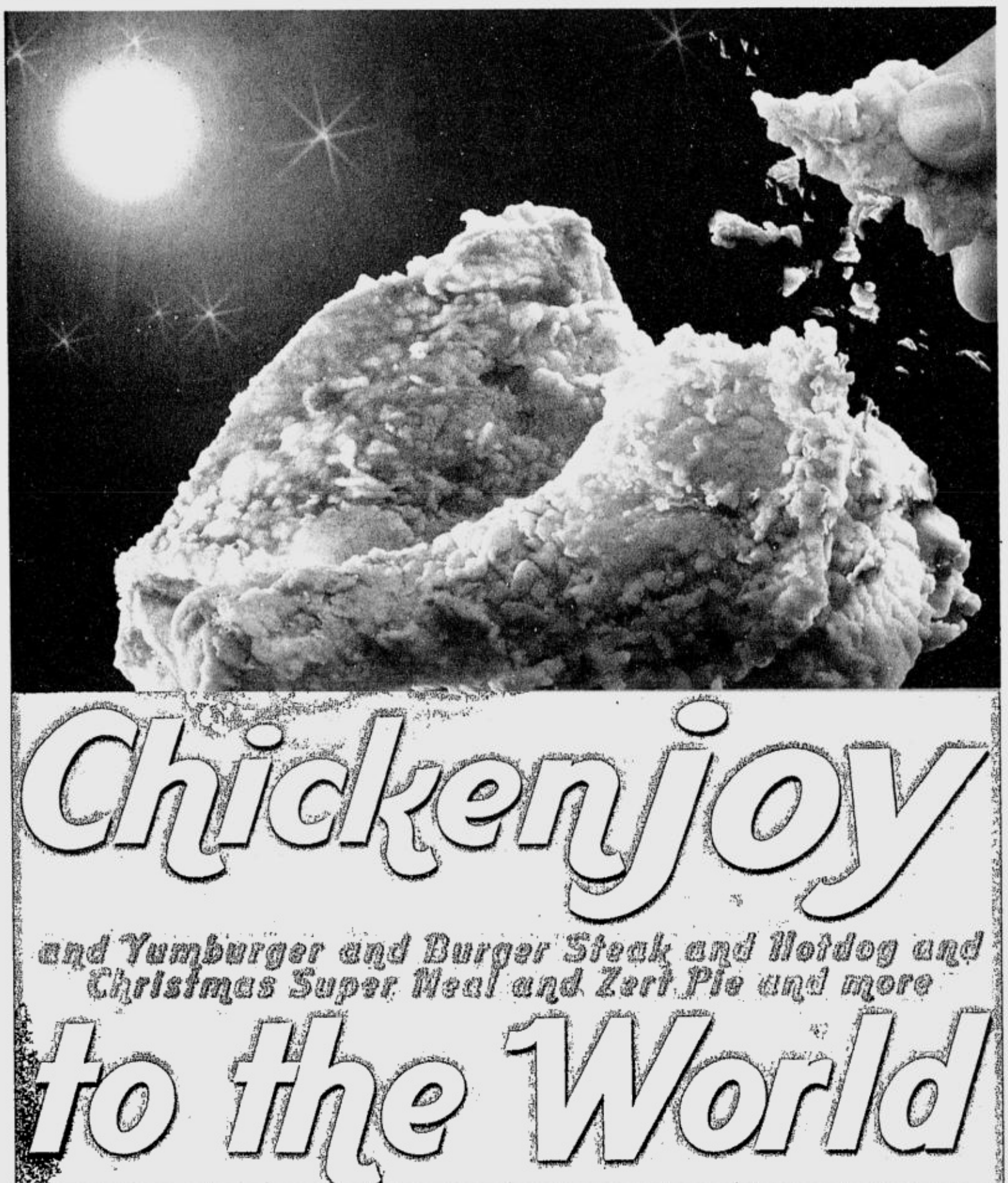
E-mail at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

DARK prints



LONG jacket

CROPPED jacket



INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market
Anniversary Supplement

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT
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JobMarket at 10

Intelligent recruitment tool for companies, a service to readers

By Joel V. Nigos

Distributed nationwide, Job Market is the widest circulated newspaper recruitment section in the country today.

The latest Job Fair held last Oct. 17-19 at the Glorietta Activity Center. Inquirer's job fairs usually attract more than 15,000 job applications for some of the country's reputable organizations.

If ever one would ask about the benefits the Job Market, the exclusive recruitment section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, has provided the "job market" during its 10 years of existence, the answer could be summarized into two—it has become an intelligent recruitment tool for companies that need to fill up their manpower requirements and a service to readers or jobseekers who are in the hunt for the best jobs possible.

Mel Vance, executive director of international operations of Teletech, shares that the media exposure given by the Inquirer "has helped us take our brand further and faster to the Filipino community."

Teletech is one of the contact center companies which have discovered the Inquirer's Job Market since the call center boom a few years ago. The company has been placing ads with the section for the past two years and is grateful that it was able to source some of their best applicants through their ads with Job Market.

Phil Hidalgo, Teletech's vice president for HR-North Asia, on the other hand, says that "Job Market has provided us with effective and well-timed ideas that immensely helped us hire the high quality Filipino professionals." He adds that these are very essential as they grow their business in the Philippines.

Some of the more loyal advertisers of Job Market have also made the same observation.

"The statement "It's not the quantity but the quality that matters' holds true to the applicants we get from our Job Market advertisements, "says Ellen Muscat, HR manager of Ramcar Group of Companies.

"Through the years of placing ads through Job Market we have been guaranteed only the best applicants in their field. They may not be as many as those who respond to our ads in another newspaper but definitely the applicants from Job Market are the ones who get the jobs in our company and are later on regarded as best performers. This is the primary reason why we stick it out with Job Market," Ellen says.

Joy Labis, corporate recruitment head of SPI Technologies, says that traditional ads are still a choice of most Filipinos in looking for quality job ads. She credits Job Market for helping them tap potential candidates fit for the job.

"Job Market has made our recruitment processes, particularly in sourcing the right people, not only easier but faster," says Joy. SPI Technologies has started placing ads with Job Market in 1997.

Garry Zaldy De Castro of Oriental Advertising Corp. thanks the Inquirer's high readership and wide circulation in helping their company get heard. "With PDI, pulling off clients and highly competitive employees has become easier for us."

Vilma Samson Soldao, assistant general manager of Edmark Group of Companies, echoes the same line of satisfied HR practitioners.

"Job Market has been our partner for manpower sourcing in the last five years. And in all those years, it made our recruitment processes a lot easier since for all the recruitment ads we have placed, we've really been getting only quality responses from Job Market readers," she says.

Indeed, companies in search of new recruits don't just go for volume. For them, it's the quality applicants that count.

This helps human resources staff a lot since they get to save more time in screening resumés because they usually get only quality applications. This makes Job Market an intelligent recruitment tool.

Quality job applicants

The Inquirer's wide circulation as well as its popularity among young readers and professionals proved to be a boon also to companies placing ads in Job Market.

Ashra Ututalum, medical editor of SPI Technologies for more than two years, chanced upon SPI's ad in the Job Market.

"I look for job ads in the Job Market because only the top companies advertise with this section. I'm assured that I'll end up with a reputable company."

Racquel Bandao, a software engineer and a graduate from St. Louis University says she responded to the job ad in the Inquirer and sent her resumé online. She was hired in a week's time.

Continued on Page 2

Sandy Prieto-Romualdez
President and CEO

Job Market has come a long way since it started out 10 years ago. It faced a formidable task, which was that of taking on an established name in the industry. It managed to pull through by keeping in mind that Job Market's one true focus is its readers, the numerous job applicants who are looking forward to having their dream careers come true.

Congratulations to Job Market for consistently striving to exceed itself! There are still many things to be done but what is important is to stay innovative and persistent in this competitive field.

I'm looking forward to your next 10 years and beyond.

Renato R. Reinoso
Senior Vice President for Sales & Marketing

The Philippine Daily Inquirer Job Market has been in existence for the past 10 years. We are delighted for this wonderful opportunity to be of service to job seekers and organizations recruiting people. The Job Market has been at the forefront of providing quality applicants for organizations from different industries. Aside from recruitment ads, career and personal development articles can also be a useful tool for people who read this section of the Inquirer.

The 10th year of Job Market is celebrated at the time that the Inquirer is gearing up for its 20th anniversary. True to its commitment of "Balanced News, Fearless Views," the Inquirer will always ensure that it will adhere to the highest standards in journalism for our readers. The Job Market will strive to provide excellent services to its advertisers and contribute to the personal and professional development of its readers. It has been an avenue for job seekers and head hunters to meet by organizing job fairs at least twice per year.

We thank everyone for their continued patronage of the Job Market and may it continue to serve Inquirer readers and the organizations advertising with us. In the end, we hope to contribute in opening up opportunities for people.

Jesse Francis N. Rebustillo
Division Head for Classified Ads

As a former HR manager, the Job Market has been an effective means to find the right people to the right kind of job. It is one of the most critical HR functions. Organizations must ensure that they hire the applicants possessing the qualifications they are looking.

With the Job Market, companies which place their job advertisements with the section are assured of quality responses. This is due to the high readership of the Inquirer.

On its 10th year, the Job Market continues to grow and to find new ways on how we can be of service to our client companies and readers. The Job Market also organizes job fairs that connect companies with qualified job seekers or even job shifters.

The Job Market looks forward to more years of providing service to our advertisers and readers.

Job Market at 10

From page 1

Asked what made her browse Job Market ads, she says, "The Inquirer's job ads are easy to read which helps a lot when you are looking for a job."

Ricson Rivera, a computer engineering graduate from the University of the East, notices that Job Market's job ads are very specific. "You're sure that you're applying to the job that fits your qualifications," he says.

"I rely on the Inquirer being the No.1 newspaper," shares Thomas Jericho Cuevas, a fresh graduate who now works as a junior software engineer.

Cuevas credits Job Market for his immediate employment. He sent his application through www.jobmarketonline.com. "I sent my resumé online on a Thursday and was taken in on a Tuesday. I was hired in three working days!"

Joy Labis, head of corporate recruitment of SPI Technologies.

Job Market Online, Job Fair

Job Market Online is a by-product of Job Market which offers innovative features that promise a higher level of speed, convenience and efficiency in job hunting and recruitment.

Job seekers can apply job openings online through its website www.jobmarketonline.com. Launched in 1998, the website is accessible to some of the country's reputable organizations. Job seekers can also print their resumes on any desktop publishing facility. When they sign up with the website they can instantly receive job alerts which contain weekly newsletters that have the latest job openings through e-mail. Job seekers can also update their resumes from time to time. They can also access job openings through their mobile phones with Job Market Online's SMS feature.

For hiring companies, Job Market Online also provides various benefits. They will have three full weeks of exposure on the Internet through www.jobmarketonline.com. Since the Inquirer's readership base is composed of the highest number of professionals, managers and executives based from the ARO-Gallup survey, they can have better qualified respondents.

Hiring companies can also have access to the Resume Central System (a categorized databank of resumes from jobseekers) based on their hiring requirements. They can also receive immediate response since they can receive resumes from applicants instantly via e-mail.

Another offshoot of the Job Market is the job fair. Held since 1997, it has become a venue for applicants to meet employers from a large number of companies. Job Market usually holds two major job fairs every year as well as several mini-job fairs in various locations such as the Glorietta Activity Center. Job fairs held by the Inquirer usually attract more than 15,000 job applicants. Companies which placed booths at the said job fairs come from the country's top 1,000 corporations.

Garry Zaldy de Castro of Oriental Advertising.

Nationwide circulation

Job Market was initially offered in Metro Manila when it was launched on Oct. 22, 1995. On Feb. 2, 2003, it went nationwide which made things easier for job hunters and employers as well. The section going national took into consideration the many job applicants living outside Metro Manila and a lot of companies looking for people who are based there. With a nationwide circulation, it has become the widest circulated recruitment section in the country.

This proved to be a perfect a step for Job Market. What with the rise of various industrial and commercial centers in several parts of the archipelago which undoubtedly needs people living there to fill up their manpower requirements. It has also become especially helpful to call center companies, which saw a boom in recent years, and which need to locate their operations in various places in order not to compete for the same pool of people in one location.

With this, the two-fold benefits of the section has reached a wider number of people—it helped job applicants from all over the Philippines because now they have a variety of quality jobs to choose from and at the same time is an advantage to corporations situated in other centers outside Metro Manila that want to have a quality and higher response rate to their advertisements.

Service to readers

The Inquirer's Job Market is the first of its kind in the Philippines. Not only does it specifically target those looking for jobs, it also offers them the Sunday People at Work, a special section within the Job Market that offers articles, columns, advice and other features which inspire, stimulate and offer solutions to the concerns of the employed as well as those seeking employment.

The section, as well as the job fairs and the jobmarketonline.com Internet site, are the Job Market's service to readers which undoubtedly has eaten up a sizeable chunk of the recruitment ads market since 1995. It is also the Inquirer's way of thanking its readers, as the country's No. 1 newspaper celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Ellen Muscat, HR manager of Ramcar.

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Congratulations Philippine Daily Inquirer

On behalf of TeleTech, I offer my warmest congratulations to the Philippine Daily Inquirer on their 10th anniversary.

In my work as Executive Director of International Operations, one of my most important responsibilities is the establishment and perpetuation of excellent public relations with our strategic business partners. With PDI's immense support, in terms of publicity and industry networking, TeleTech has created a reputable image built on corporate reliability and integrity.

The media exposure given by PDI has helped us take our brand further and faster to the Filipino community. With PDI's reach, Filipinos now have great interest in the contact center industry, in general, and awareness of TeleTech, in particular.

It definitely has been a great two years of working with the Philippine Daily Inquirer!

Rest assured you will have our continued patronage in the years to come.

Best personal regards,

Mel Vance
Executive Director of International Operations

We would like to thank the Philippine Daily Inquirer for being an invaluable partner of TeleTech's HR and Recruitment initiatives. For the past two years, you have provided us with effective and well-timed ideas that immensely helped us hire the high quality Filipino professionals.

As we continue to grow our business in the Philippines, we know we can count on your support.

We look forward to a bigger and brighter future with the Philippine Daily Inquirer!

Again, thank you and congratulations on your 10th year of operations!

Phil Hidalgo
Vice President of HR - North Asia

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for these past two years of partnership and commitment to TeleTech. We know that the growth and success of our company is largely dependent on having strong and capable strategic partners, such as you. As such, we recognize the contribution you have made and will continue to give to TeleTech.

It has been a great two years working with you! Here's to more wonderful years ahead. Cheers!

Alethea Montalvo
Site Recruitment Manager – Pasay CMC

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of Philippine Daily Inquirer's 10th anniversary, on this auspicious day!

We have seen tremendous results in our recruitment efforts and our public awareness programs. Partnering with PDI for the launch and recruitment ramp-up for our Novaliches facility was one of the best things for us. I know we will continue with our beneficial partnership as we move forward to 2006 and beyond.

We hope you will carry on with your tradition of providing outstanding service to your clients and in building bridges with your business partners.

We wish you success in your endeavors in the next 10 years and beyond.

Robyn Uson
Site Recruitment Manager – Novaliches CMC

ABOUT TELETECH

TeleTech is a global business services company that provides a full range of front- to back-office outsourced solutions including customer management, BPO and database marketing services to measurably enhance clients' core customer management processes. TeleTech's ability to create innovative strategies, combined with its global technology platform and delivery infrastructure, helps clients increase revenue, lower costs, and retain their customers around the world. TeleTech's products and services, standardized processes, and recognized capabilities to implement complex global projects make the Company a valued partner for clients that include Global 1000 businesses and governments. TeleTech partners with clients to offer 150 languages, through its more than 34,000 employees, in 76 customer management centers located in 17 countries.

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Pasay City 1300

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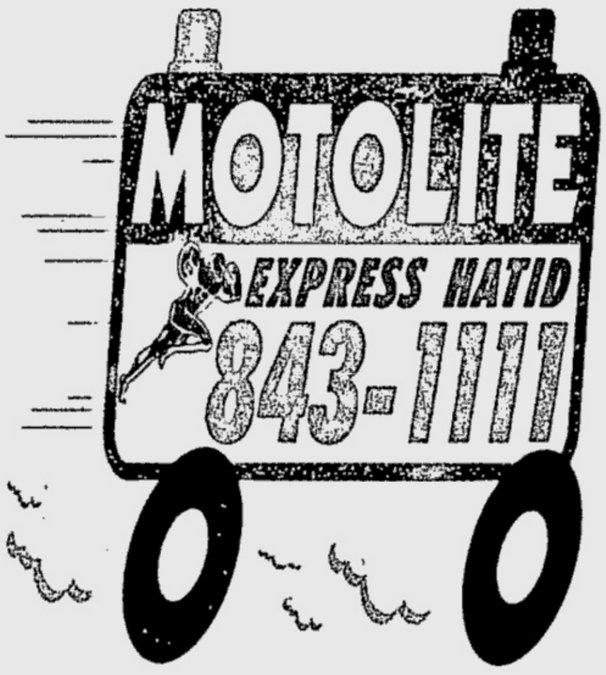

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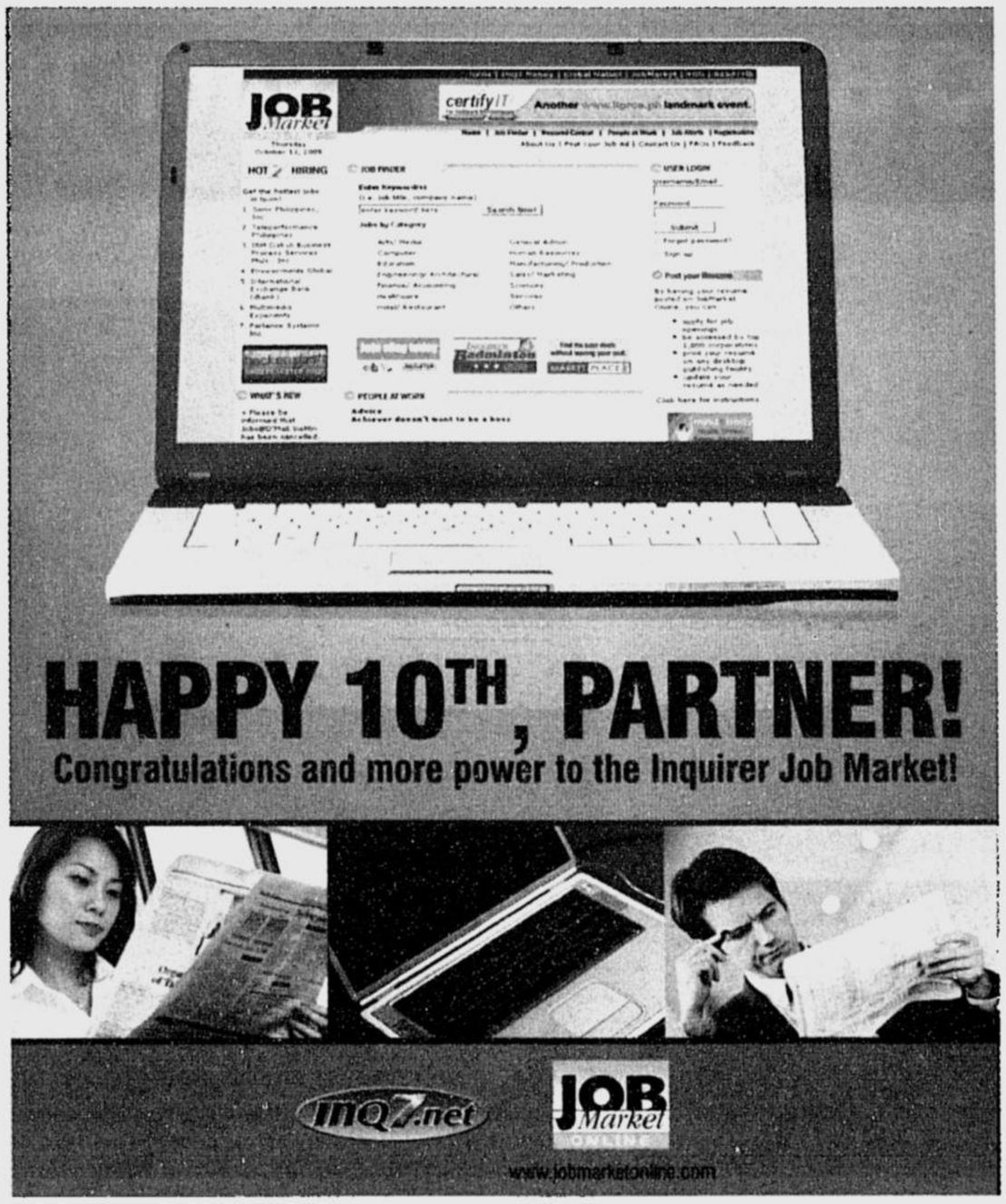

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Congratulations to Job Market on your 10th anniversary!

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The power of two

Job Market and People at Work

By Regina Galang Reyes

READERS OF JOB MARKET NOT ONLY HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST JOBS possible when they get hold of the Inquirer's recruitment section, they also get to read career advice and other articles that tackle the concerns of the employed as well as those seeking employment. These are offered at Job Market every Sunday, through its People at Work section.

The two sections merged forces on Oct. 20, 2002 when the Sunday People at Work first appeared as an editorial companion to Job Market.

Through the section, readers can seek advice from two of the premier career coaches in the country—Ernie Cecilia, president of EC Business Solutions and Career Center and Josie Santamaria, president of Career Systems Inc.—through their column "Ask Your Career Counselor," which they write on alternate weeks.

Readers can get spiritual advice too from Bishop Precioso Cantillas and Teresa Reyes Tunay who write the twin column of "Reflections for the Working Soul." The column applies the Gospel to various concerns about work both from the viewpoint of a religious leader and a layperson.

A healthy helping of humor and wise words can be had from well-known work wizard Bob Rosner, author of the internationally syndicated column, "Working Wounded." Rosner is also author of the bestselling books "Working Wounded," "The Boss's Survival Guide," and "Gray Matters: The Workplace Survival Guide."

In "Best Attitudes," readers are also treated with articles that provide gems of work wisdom through text and illustrations. This is written also by Tunay and illustrated by Rolando Reyes. HR practitioners also have a special part in People at Work with features of HR practitioners and practices featured in "HR Focus."

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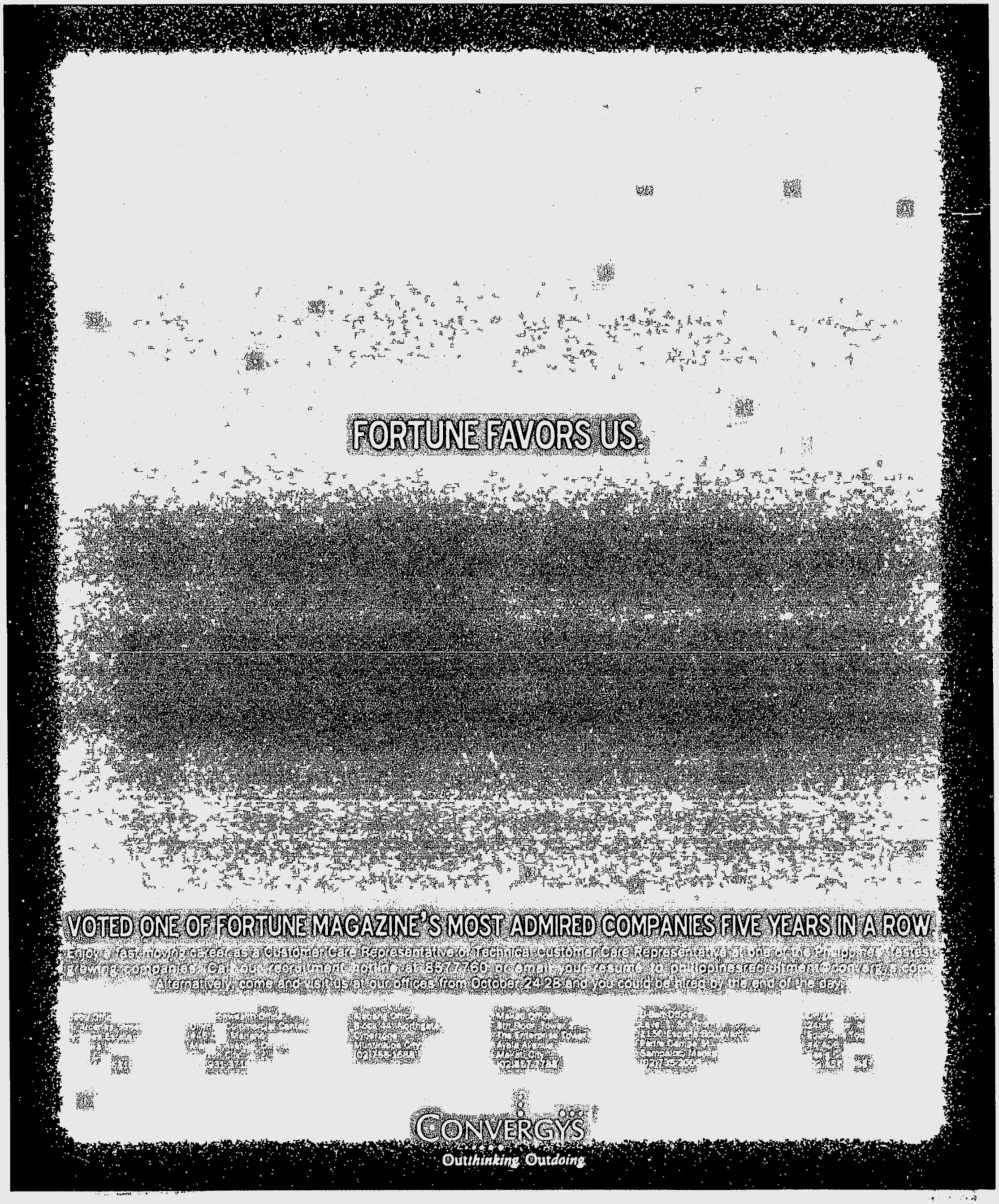

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

■ SUPER / C1

Amanda Griffin bares swimsuit line by Celine Lopez

■ METRO / A15

Michael Ray pleads not guilty in US espionage case

■ SATURDAY SPECIAL / A2-1

At 11, Dakota Fanning is film world's biggest female star

■ NEWS / A2

Once more, ex-Agri Usec Bolante gives Senate the slip

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, October ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 316 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Jules, Assunta volunteer to sell hacienda for P222M

By Blanche S. Rivera

FORMER CONGRESSMAN JULES Ledesma and his wife, the movie actress Assunta de Rossi, have become the poster couple of land reform.

The agrarian reform department has hailed the Ledesmas as model sugar barons af-

JULES/ A4

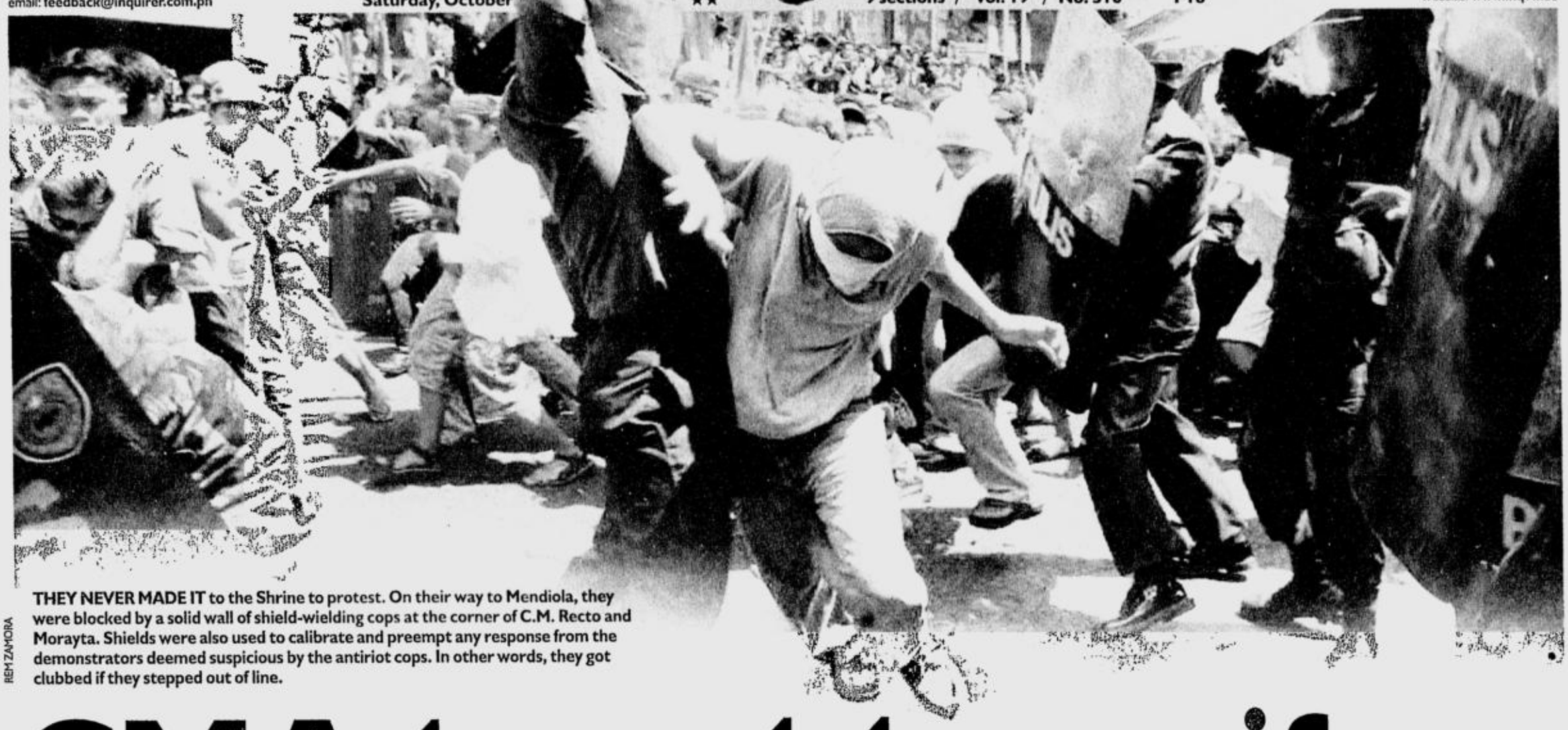
Pichay poses challenge to Joe de V speakership

By Michael Lim Ubac

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA IS UNFAZED BY a fresh attempt to wrest control of the House of Representatives from him, calling it "not a rebellion, just post-impeachment jockeying for posts."

Early yesterday, De Venecia described the

PICHAY/ A15



THEY NEVER MADE IT to the Shrine to protest. On their way to Mendiola, they were blocked by a solid wall of shield-wielding cops at the corner of C.M. Recto and Morayta. Shields were also used to calibrate and preempt any response from the demonstrators deemed suspicious by the antiriot cops. In other words, they got clubbed if they stepped out of line.

REM ZAMORA

GMA to cut term if ...

If people will approve in plebiscite, says Bunye

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana and Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo will cut her term short if that is what the majority of Filipinos will say in a plebiscite on her continued stay in power, according to her spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"Whatever the proposal will be subject to a plebiscite, and whatever the result, will be accepted by the President," Bunye said in a transcript of a radio interview yesterday.

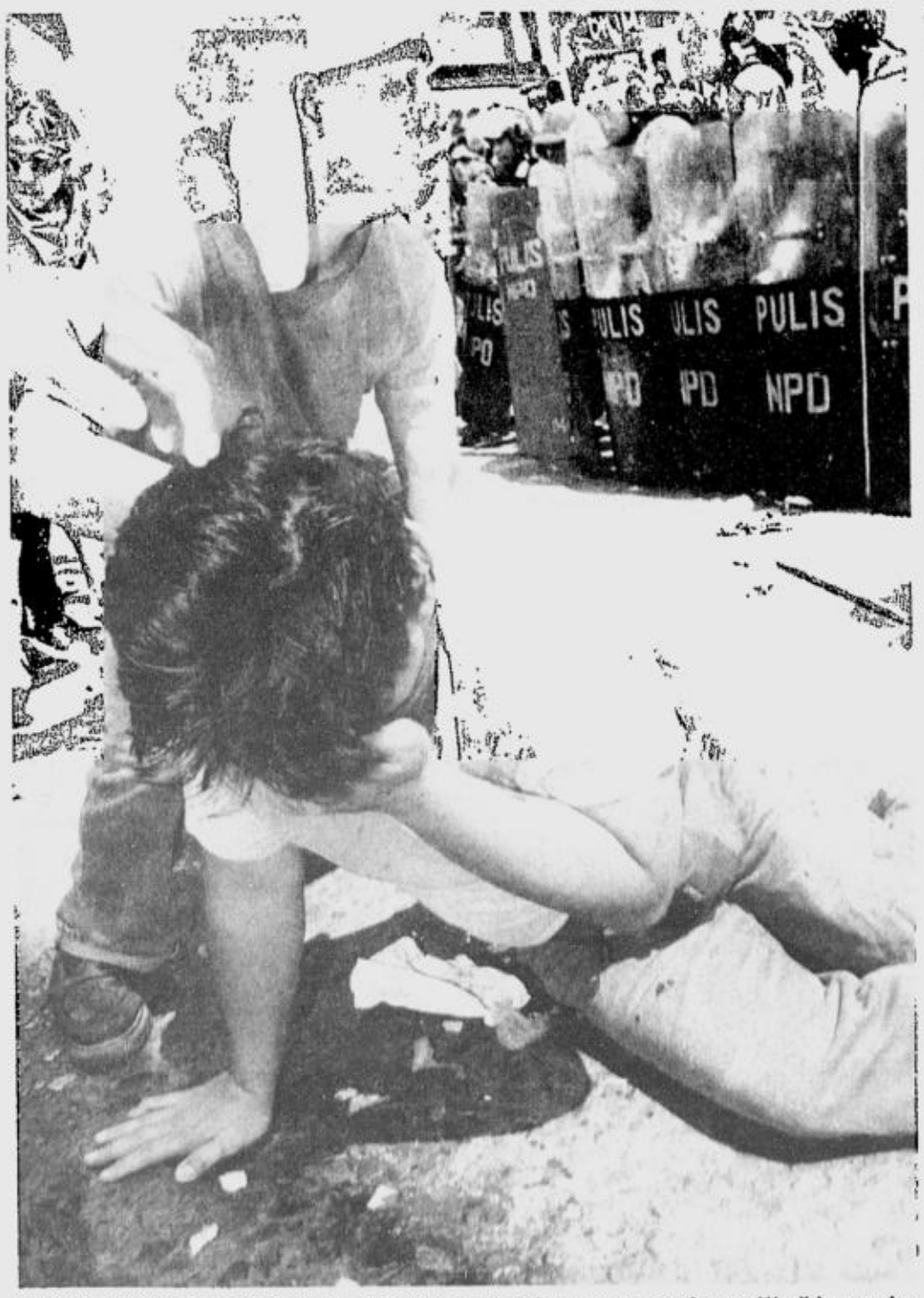
He was replying to a question of whether Ms Arroyo would comply if Congress adopts a transitory provision in the planned constitutional amendments to reduce her six-year term to three, and this is approved in a plebiscite.

But Bunye maintained that "in the absence of any legal mandate to cut short her term, the President has a constitutional mandate to serve up to 2010."

Even Vice President Noli de Castro is willing to cut his term and support a shift to a parliamentary form of government, if the people who voted for him will also approve of it.

De Castro told the INQUIRER that he would not be an obstacle to positive change. But he said he would only consider cutting his term after the true will of the people shall have

GMA/ A4



"RESOUNDING SUCCESS," rally organizers said of the protest march even if it did not quite reach its objective, and 5 protesters and 3 policemen were injured. REM ZAMORA

Protest marchers didn't even get a glimpse of Mendiola

By Norman Bordadora, Christian V. Esguerra, Luige A. del Puerto and Margaux C. Ortiz

THEIR TARGET WAS THE BRIDGE. They did not even get a glimpse. They never had a chance.

Walls of antiriot troops, fire trucks, barricades of steel and razor wire, container vans and more troops blocked all approaches to Malacañang yesterday, thwarting some 7,000 marchers in their attempt to get close to the Palace, and triggering scuffles with the police.

At least five protesters and three policemen were injured in the clashes at the corner of C.M. Recto and Morayta before both sides declared a truce, averting a feared bloody confrontation.

The protesters, demanding the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, included farmers and fishermen who had come from different points around Luzon in a six-day Lakbayan (People's March) intended to end at Mendiola (Don Chino Roces) Bridge.

For decades, the bridge has stood as a symbol of defiance to governments perceived to be unpopular.

But the militants from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, its allied organizations and the

PROTEST/ A6

Tale of 2 protesters at farmers' 'Lakbayan'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THEY CAME FROM TWO DIFFERent worlds but a common dream brought them together—to save the land their forefathers had tilled.

Among the thousands of peasants who took part in the six-day Lakbayan (People's March) which ended yesterday were 10-year-old Joselito de los Santos and 45-year-old farmer Guillermo Bautista.

A Dumagat, Joselito looked frail but minced no words when he spoke to the INQUIRER about how soldiers snatched away his childhood four years ago, when they killed his father.

"Iba ang nararamdaman ko kapag nakakakita ako ng sundalo. Kaya hanggang ngayon ipanagla-

TALE/ A6

Police band keeps things humming

Margaux C. Ortiz

WHILE MILITANTS ON Morayta Street waved flags and clamored for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster, some 50 meters away on Mendiola Street, policemen were humming and tapping their feet to the Christmas song, "Let it Snow."

The lilting holiday song and marching melodies were performed by the Philippine National Police band to cheer

POLICE / A4

INC orders its newscasters not to hit GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE POLITICALLY INFLUENTIAL Iglesia Ni Cristo has directed its broadcasters to refrain from hitting the Arroyo administration, sources trusted by the INQUIRER said yesterday.

The INQUIRER learned about the directive the same day the INC and the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai launched a joint appeal, in newspaper advertisements, to both the administration and the opposition to end their political squabbles, saying these were hurting the economy.

The reported directive came on the heels of an administration move to crack down on protests and criticisms against President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom the INC had backed in the 2004 presidential election.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, also said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga recently paid a visit to the INC temple in Quezon City.

Senga talked with some INC officials but the sources did not identify these officials or say what they and Senga talked about.

News about the INC directive coincided with the surprise "absence" of the hard-hitting tandem of Nixon Kua and Ros Olgado in their morning program "Mata ng Agila" over dzEC, the AM radio owned by the INC.

Kua, who once headed the Philippine Tourism Authority during the administration of ousted President Joseph Estrada, and Olgado, a veteran journalist, refused to comment on the reported directive to INC broadcasters to go slow on their commentaries and reportage about the Arroyo administration.

INC ORDERS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/22/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Ex-Agri usec gives Senate the slip

By TJ Burgonio

JOCELYN "JOC-JOC" BOLANTE, THE ELUSIVE former department of Agriculture official in charge of funds that were allegedly misused in the run-up to last year's elections, has given the Senate the slip once more in a cat-and-mouse game with legislators eager to question him on where the money actually went.

Bolante had snubbed the opening last Oct. 6 of the Senate's probe into the so-called fertilizer fund scandal that involved the disbursement of P728 million under the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani, an agricultural program bearing President Macapagal-Arroyo's initials.

Bolante, a Rotary associate of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, was rumored at the time to have gone abroad.

Getting wind that Bolante had opened a three-day meeting of Rotary International at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the agriculture committee which is conducting the investigation, sent an aide and a representative of the Senate's Sergeant-at-Arms posthaste to the hotel to serve the former official a subpoena.

But hotel security personnel, saying they did not want to disrupt the proceedings, kept the duo at bay along with members of the press for nearly an hour. When the pair from the Senate was finally allowed in, Bolante was nowhere to be found.

It was his lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, who received the subpoena on behalf of Bolante, who resigned as agriculture undersecretary in September 2004 and is now a director and treasurer of Rotary International. The subpoena directs him to attend the committee's second hearing next Wednesday.

"He (Bolante) was here all day yesterday and today. He even gave a talk this morning. Of course, he made no mention of the controversy he's facing," a local Rotarian said in an interview.

Bolante called the Rotary Zone Institute conference to order and delivered the opening address on Thursday afternoon, according to the conference's program of activities.

"He's here right now in the presence of more than 600 guests, local and international Rotarians, performing his duty as a Rotarian," Zulueta told reporters outside the hotel. He said Bolante saw no need to face the media.

BOLANTE

"First of all, no charges have been filed against my client and he has already issued an interview on what happened to the P730-million fertilizer issue. It referred to the farm implements and program under GMA (Ginintuang Masaganang Ani)," he said, adding: "I believe the disbursements made are in order."

Zulueta gave broad hints that his client, who is busy attending Rotary conferences abroad, wasn't keen on attending the Senate hearing.

Magsaysay's aide, Wendy Satiago, said that a warrant of arrest would be issued against Bolante if he fails to show up at Wednesday's hearing.

Secretaries Domingo Panganiban of Agriculture, Romulo Neri of Budget, Nasser Pangandaman of Land Reform and Peter Favila of Trade had begged off from the Oct. 6 hearing, invoking Executive Order 464 which bars administration officials from attending congressional inquiries without the President's approval.

Besides Bolante, former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr., the other key players in the release of the fund, were also no-shows for different reasons.

Zulueta said that his client did not receive the invitation to the first hearing and denied that Bolante had gone overseas to escape the inquiry.

"He was here at the time. But after the hearing, he went to Sydney for a conference with Rotary International," he said. "He's busy in the Philippines, but for the past 14 or 15 months, he's been out of the country most of the time."

The Senate inquiry opened two months after Magsaysay filed a resolution seeking to investigate into the alleged mismanagement of the fertilizer fund from the DA's Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA).

The resolution was an offshoot of a special report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism that the budget department had authorized the release of P728 million for the purchase of farm inputs and implements prior to the elections, but that these never reached the farmers.

Congressional inquiries a 'waste of time and money,' says poll

By Michael Lim Ubac

MAJORITY OF FILIPINOS BElieve that congressional inquiries into jueteng and "Hello Garci" scandalS were a "waste of time and money," according to the latest survey results released yesterday by the Social Weather Station.

The SWS poll was conducted from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5, and involved a representative sample of 1,200 voting-age adults nationwide.

The survey was commissioned by the AMA Education System, a regular subscriber to the SWS surveys.

The poll showed that more than half of respondents, or 54 percent, "strongly agreed" that congressional probes were a waste of taxpayers' money and the legislators' time.

Only 22 percent disagreed, while 20 percent were undecided.

The net agreement – percent of those that agreed minus percent of those that disagreed – was 32, indicating a high agreement, said a press statement jointly issued by Johnny Ramos, AMA vice president, and Gerardo Sandoval, deputy manager for SWS surveys .

For the whole of Luzon, 57 percent agreed with the statement, with 20 percent disagreeing. The figures were 46 percent agreeing and 24 percent disagreeing in the Visayas, and 52 percent agreeing and 25 percent disagreeing in Mindanao.

"Despite perceptions that the Metropolitan Manila population has been more critical of the government, the survey showed that more Filipinos, or 62 percent, living in the National Capital Region thought the Congress investigations were just a waste of time and money," the statement said.

The results were the same by socio-economic classes, with 64 percent among ABC classes agreeing that the congressional investigations were a waste of time and money.

"Majority of both females (58 percent) and males (51) percent, and 60 percent of those with higher education likewise shared the view that the investigations were simply wasting taxpayers' money," the statement said.

The SWS poll also showed that 37 percent believed that, in spite of the accusations thrown at her, President Macapagal-Arroyo has continued to implement "good reforms."

Those who disagreed with this statement represented 34 percent of respondents while 26 percent were undecided.

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Makati Business Club warns of GMA authoritarian rule

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST influential business groups said yesterday that recent government policies restricting protests and congressional inquiries show President Macapagal-Arroyo may be heading toward authoritarian rule.

The Makati Business Club, which has joined calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation over allegations she rigged last year's election, issued the statement as police stopped thousands of left-wing protesters from marching near the presidential Palace.

The group expressed concern that the Arroyo administration had embarked on policies to "curtail basic freedoms, reduce transparency and accountability" and contemplate the management of some privately owned utilities and businesses.

"Collectively, they illustrate a pattern of repression, which has detrimental effects on basic freedoms and eventually on an open economy," it said.

Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye shrugged off the statement.

"Some elements of the Makati Business Club are beginning to sound like a broken record," he said. "They easily forget that if there is one person who would be most interested in strengthening our economy, it is the President."

Since her congressional allies defeated an opposition bid to impeach her in late August, Ms Arroyo has hit back at opponents, ordering police to strictly implement a "no permit, no rally" policy that has led to several violent dispersals of protesters near the presidential palace in recent weeks.

She also has barred officials from testifying in Congress without her consent, claiming opposition lawmakers were using the hearings as another platform to attack her administration.

The business club, which includes many of the country's top businessmen, said protests were an "expression of frustration" at the government's inability to reduce poverty and corruption. They warned that Filipinos will fight for their rights to peaceful assembly and free speech "regardless of how repressive the regime may be," as shown during resistance to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

It said Ms Arroyo's ban on officials testifying without her permission "reduces transparency and accountability." It also said that a "state of emergency" was being considered by the government, based on statements by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales on possible state action in case rising oil prices threaten the economy.

Bunye has said Gonzales conducted a "mere academic" study on his own regarding options that are allowed by the Constitution in case of an economic crisis. *AP*

US envoy airs support for GMA administration – Palace statement

EVEN AS ANTI-ADMINISTRATION protests raged in the streets, Malacañang yesterday said the United States has expressed support for and confidence yet again in the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We very much support your leadership and the country," the Palace quoted US charge d'affaires Paul Jones as telling the President when he made a courtesy call on Ms Arroyo yesterday.

According to a Palace statement, Jones was with Henry Crumpton, US ambassador and coordinator for counter-terrorism, when he went to Malacañang.

Crumpton reportedly thanked Ms Arroyo for her role in fighting terrorism in the region.

"President George Bush has expressed the importance of collective efforts against the global threat of terrorism," Crumpton was quoted as telling the President.

Other US Embassy officials who made the courtesy call were Paul O'Friel of the political section and Bruce Stewart, counselor for regional affairs.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was with the President.

Ms Arroyo assured the US officials that the passage of an anti-terrorism law was now her top priority after completing her economic reform agenda.

"We are determined to get it through. We will do anything to have it passed," the President told the US officials. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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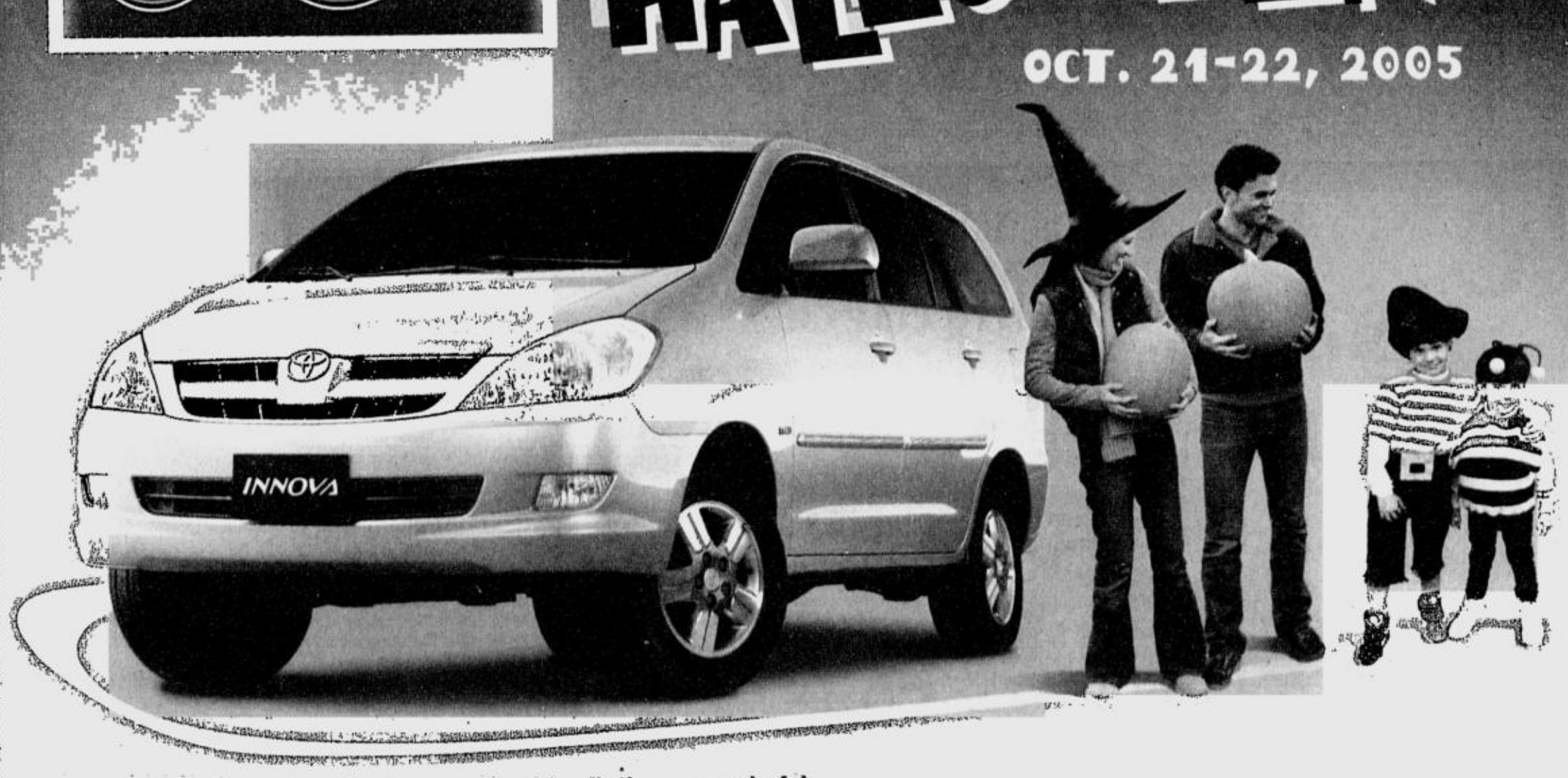

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Jules, Assunta volunteer to sell hacienda for P222M

From page A1

ter the couple offered their 450-hectare sugar estate for P222,300,000 to the government for redistribution.

The couple, accompanied by Department of Agrarian Reform officials, met with President Macapagal-Arroyo two weeks ago and offered to sell their sugar estate in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, to the government under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"I believe that property rights are not absolute and hence are subject to the needs and exigencies of the community," Ledesma was quoted as telling the President.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman urged other landowners in the country to "do a Ledesma" by voluntarily offering their vast landholdings for redistribution.

The DAR chief said the Ledesmas' move should make other landowners reassess their stand on CARP and "make the supreme sacrifice of parting with their lands for the sake of land reform."

Pangandaman inspected the Ledesma property the other day and described the sugar estate as prime agricultural land.

In their voluntary offer to sell form, the Ledesmas are asking P494,000 per hectare for the San Carlos property, which is in the name of the family-run Gamboa Hermanos Inc.

Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Jeffrey Galan said the Ledesmas had apparently pegged the price to a previous valuation by the Land Bank of the Philippines of another sugar estate belonging to the family.

The 450-hectare property is said to be more productive than the other property which was appraised by the Land Bank at P394,000 per hectare, Galan said.

"But we still have to check. It's the Landbank that will determine the price. Even if in the end they question the valuation, it will not stop us from acquiring it," Galan said.

Home to the country's biggest sugar estates, Negros Occidental has been described by the DAR as "the last bastion of landowners opposed to CARP."

After 17 years of CARP implementation, the government has managed to cover only about half of the targeted lands in Negros, or 137,834 hectares of the 272,356 hectares identified for CARP coverage.

The DAR has been locked in legal battles with Negros landowners who have resisted government attempts to take over their properties for CARP for years.

Other landowners, whose estates have been taken over through compulsory acquisition, have prevented farmer beneficiaries from occupying the lands awarded to them by stationing guards on the property.

The DAR still has to cover some 780,000 hectares under CARP before the funding for the program expires in 2008.

SUGAR IS SWEET, and so are they. The agrarian reform department hails Jules Ledesma and actress wife Assunta as "model sugar barons." PDI PHOTO

GMA, to cut term if...

From page A1

been determined either through a plebiscite or a constitutional convention.

The Vice President was reacting to the statement of his election lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, who reminded former President Fidel V. Ramos that the Vice President and other senators should also be considered in any discussions on Charter change.

Ramos said Thursday that the President should make a sacrifice and cut her term short to end the current political crisis.

Rivals and allies

The abbreviation of Ms Arroyo's term as the solution to the crisis caused by lingering doubts on the result of the 2004 presidential election has been espoused not only by her political rivals but also by her allies, notably Ramos, Speaker Jose de Venecia and El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde.

Both Ramos and De Venecia want what they called the President's "graceful exit" to be included in the ongoing efforts to amend the Constitution.

They have proposed that Congress finalize the amendments within a year and present these in a referendum for approval by the public. Under the proposal, the public would be ready to elect a new leader by 2007.

Velarde has suggested the holding of a referendum, possibly during the 2007 elections, that would determine whether the electorate wants the President to serve her term up to 2010.

In his view, Ms Arroyo should step down by May 20, 2007, because she would have served a full six years in office by that time.

But Malacañang insists that any talk of term abbreviations even before Congress formally moves to amend the Constitution is premature.

"To speak of term limits at this time would be like putting the cart before the horse. With all due respect to former President Ramos, the move to amend the Constitution is not about term limits," Bunye said.

He suggested that discussions focus on fundamental reforms in politics, economy and society.

Realpolitik

According to Lito Monico Lorenzana, secretary general of the Consultative Commission (ConCom) on Charter change, Ms Arroyo can leave her fate to Congress or work out an arrangement to stay until 2010 either as a strong or a ceremonial President.

But "either way," he said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Charter change would affect the rest of her term.

"Personally, I think it's her call because she is not only the President [but] also the leader of Lakas, and Charter change has to have the backing of the majority in Congress. That is realpolitik," Lorenzana said.

But if Ms Arroyo chooses to stay up to 2010, Congress—assuming it will sit as the body to amend the Constitution—will have the say on how much power she will wield as President, he said, adding:

"Her position has to be protected, but how strong that position will be is the call of the constituent assembly."

Lorenzana said that depending on the model of the parliamentary government that would eventually be adopted, Ms Arroyo could be a powerful or a ceremonial President.

He said that if Congress would elect to have a strong prime minister, "that will erode the prestige and power of the President."

No position yet

But Lorenzana stressed that the ConCom had "no position" yet on Ms Arroyo's term.

He said the 49-member consultative body, of which Ramos is one of the four advisers, would deal with the issue only in the last three weeks of its work.

The ConCom, created to recommend amendments to the President, principally the shift from the presidential-unitary system, has until Dec. 15 to come up with its report. So far, it has approved the shift to the parliamentary form of government with a unicameral legislature.

According to Lorenzana, the issue of whether Ms Arroyo should step down or not to pave the way for the proposed shift by 2007 is expected to come up in the nationwide consultations that the ConCom will hold starting Monday.

As for Ramos' statement that Ms Arroyo should "give up part of [her] elected term of office," Lorenzana said: "He is a person of high intellect and experience, so we'll take his opinion in context."

Lorenzana said he was "not surprised" by Ramos' statement because it was a "consistent" stand of the ex-President.

"You know FVR—he is good in positioning," Lorenzana said.

Fidelity to the people

De Castro said he could "always sacrifice for the benefit of the people."

"I am open to any public discussion on the issue of Charter change, but there must be a mechanism by which the people will be allowed to express their sentiments," he said.

De Castro said that he owed "utmost fidelity" to the people, and that he would abide by their decision.

He also said neither he nor other politicians, not even Ramos or Ms Arroyo, could decide on the matter.

The Vice President pointed out that under the Constitution, his term of office is fixed until 2010.

He said he would not renege on his duties on the basis of "malicious insinuations and political innuendos."

Asked about the wisdom of Ramos' suggestion to Ms Arroyo, De Castro said the matter was yet unclear. "Let us first inform and educate the people about it and see if they will accept it," he said.

ConCom member Gerry Espina had said the Vice President could be retained as a member of the new Parliament, probably as its Speaker, up to 2010.

But he said that position would have been abolished by the time the first election under the parliamentary-federal system is held on that year.

Espina had proposed to the ConCom the automatic extension of the terms of all officials—from the presidency down to the barangay—up to 2010.

But Macalintal said: "If [Ms Arroyo] agrees to cut her term, what if Vice President De Castro, or any of the 12 senators whose term expires in 2010, does not likewise agree?"

No room for Noli

De Venecia admitted that there would be no room for De Castro in the new system.

But he said there was likelihood that De Castro would be allowed to serve up to the end of his term.

"He has a contract with the people to serve them up to 2010," De Venecia said, adding, however, that this proposal was "subject to the final decision of the framers of the new Constitution, which will be the Senate and the House acting as a constituent assembly."

House committee report No. 1065—written by Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House panel on constitutional amendments—makes no mention of the constitutional successor of the President except for Section 10 of Article 19 of the proposed Charter, which says: "The incumbent President shall preside in the convening of the national assembly on June 30, 2007, for the election of the Speaker, who shall immediately thereafter assume his office."

The report is silent on whether he has some duties to fulfill after that. ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

Correction

IN THE OCT. 20 issue, a story in the Entertainment section on Page A22—"Guitar Quartet at arts fest"—misstated that the Philippine National Artist for Music is "the late Lucrecia Roces Kasilag." Ms Kasilag is alive and well. We apologize for the error.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Police band ...

From page A1

the policemen and boost their spirits.

"Hearing loud and cheerful music would provide a happier atmosphere and defuse the tension between the police and protesters," explained Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, Manila Police District deputy director for operations.

He added and not without a smile: "It could also cool many a hot head during possible extended negotiations."

'Die Hard'

"Let It Snow" was composed by musician Jule Styne and lyricist Sammy Cahn in 1945. It reflects the feeling of warmth and security associated with Christmas. It has been reprised a few times and best remembered in the film, "Die Hard," where the song is played when Bruce Willis' character arrives in Los Angeles on Christmas Eve to spend the holidays with his family. But his wife has been taken hostage and he singlehandedly ends up killing the terrorists and saving the hostages.

Aside from listening to cheery music, the police also prepared for the day's protest rally by attending Holy Mass in the morning.

They prayed that both protesters and law enforcers would be safe, Abarzosa said.

During a break, a female police officer was asked if her prayers had been answered: "We are only following orders. Given the chance, we would also want to serve the people in other ways—like helping victims at the women and children's desk and solving criminal cases—instead of spending our days on these protests," she said, sitting on her shield and surveying the crowd.

Chief Insp. Lilian Castillo said more than 70 women police officers were pulled out from their assigned sections to form part of the civil disturbance management (CDM) group weeks ago.

"We have been at the forefront of the CDM for many, many days now," Castillo said while she ate lanzones for lunch.

She said they considered the rallies a big challenge, despite the temporary reassignment from their former duties.

"The videos would show you that the protesters do not give us an easy time during the rallies," Castillo said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 22, 2005
29th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:1-11
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Some persons told Jesus what had occurred in the Temple: Pilate had Galileans killed and their blood mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus replied, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did.

"And those eighteen persons in Siloah who were crushed when the tower fell, do you think they were more guilty than all the others in Jerusalem? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did."

And Jesus continued with this story, "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it, but found none. Then he said to the gardener: 'Look here, for three years now I have been looking for figs on this tree and I have found none. Cut it down, why should it use up the ground?' The gardener replied: 'Leave it one more year, so that I may dig around it and add some fertilizer; and perhaps it will bear fruit from now on. But if it doesn't, you can cut it down."

Commentary

Jesus grows more and more passionate about calling people to see and repent. He reminds the people of those who they think were evil and so were caught without time to repent, cut down while they were offering sacrifices and caught in a disaster that claimed so many at once. Who are sinners?—it was thought that God allows the good a chance to turn before they would die. Jesus tries to make them aware that they must change and give forth the fruit of justice and peace. A fig tree in a vineyard, with no fruit. Year after year—nothing. It only sucked the nutrients and water out of the vineyard. It took nearly seven years for fruit-first years were too bitter, hard. The first good figs belonged to God...but there's nothing here. It needs help-drastic measures—manure—enough alkaline to either kill it or jump start it and strong chopping and hoeing around its root structure—produce or else! And what about us? How long have we been in the kingdom (vineyard of God) and are we just sucking up everything around us but producing nothing? Do we need a good dose of manure dumped on us and our roots wrenched so that we will finally produce justice and peace? Or will we, in the end, be cut down because we gave nothing to anyone?

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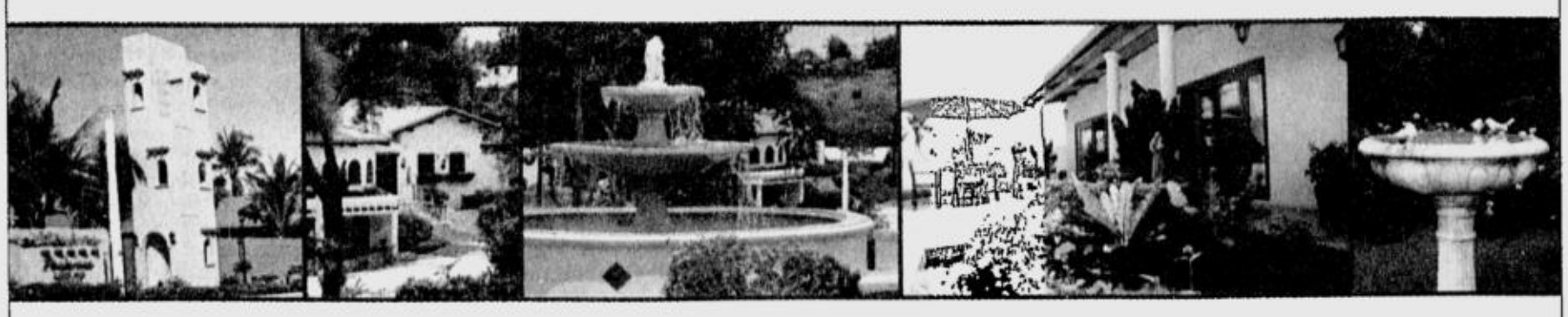

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Protest marchers didn't even get a glimpse of Mendiola

From page A1

pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty, never got there as the police, numbering several hundreds, stood their ground.

Almost every street corner was also guarded by police contingents just in case the marchers pierced the Morayta defenses.

At least 200 policemen guarded Mendiola.

While the protest was going on, Ms Arroyo was away in her home province of Pampanga, defending her administration's strong-arm tactics against protesters and commending the police for supporting her vision of a "strong republic."

Speaking in front of market vendors and traders in Pampanga, Ms Arroyo expressed sympathy for the policemen who were hurt, including a policewoman who, she said, was to undergo operation for serious injuries she suffered in the scuffles with protesters.

The President justified her administration's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy of no-permit-no-rally on demonstrations.

"We must minimize disturbances to our students and the commuting public as we lay down clear-cut rules of engagement on handling mass actions," she said.

'Mendiola! Mendiola!'

Defending her tough measures against protesters, Ms Arroyo said: "These are elements of a strong republic that we need in order for our economic takeoff not to be sabotaged by a degenerate political system."

The militants, shouting "Mendiola! Mendiola!" were blocked at the corner of Recto Avenue and Morayta by around 500 policemen and three fire trucks.

The scuffles erupted when a separate group of protesters tried to force its way past a police blockade while negotiations were going on.

The police flailed away at the protesters with their placards.

The INQUIRER saw at least three protesters, two of them women, falling and getting trampled upon in the stampede.

The victims

The marchers were already retreating when a policeman charged at one man trying to crawl away from the melee. He struck the hapless man on the knee.

Rally organizers identified two of the victims as Duds Gerodias, president of the Alliance of Democratic Labor Organizations, and a certain Joan Salvador. They suffered head injuries.

PO1 Virgilio Ablaza and PO1 Reynold Raquel were gashed on their elbows. Another officer, PO1 Alan Baesa, suffered a head cut after an unidentified protester hit him with a flag stick.

"It was a controlled move to assert our rights," party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said of the decision to move against the police barricade.

Casiño and fellow Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo initially appealed to the police to allow the protesters to reach San Sebastian College, at least.

'Just a glimpse'

"We just want a glimpse of Mendiola," Casiño told police. He also asked that some 20 to 30 rally leaders be allowed to stage a symbolic walk to Mendiola.

But police refused, angering protesters on the front line and setting off the brief clash.

Some marchers hurled slabs of wood, wooden flagpoles, stones and slippers at the police, who threw some of them back.

Police later allowed the protesters to hold their program at Morayta until 6 p.m.

"It's already a success for us to have reached Morayta," said Orlando Marcellana, one of the leaders of the peasant group Kasama from southern Tagalog.

The message

Asked if it was a failure that the marchers never made it to Mendiola, Bayan chairperson Carol Araullo told the INQUIRER that physical presence on the bridge was no longer necessary.

"We were already able to deliver the message that if [Ms Arroyo] would insist on staying in Malacañang, similar protests will be launched against her," Araullo said.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) fielded 16 special investigators to monitor the rally and possible human rights violations by either side.

Protesters flush out 'infiltrators'

By DJ Yap

IF THE MILITARY IS WORRIED about communist rebels infiltrating protest rallies, demonstrators too may have a reason to be concerned about soldiers infiltrating their ranks.

Militant farmers and fisherfolk confronted two suspected military "spies" during the Quezon City leg of their People's March, which ended yesterday.

On Thursday night, a retired Army man, who claimed he was just on his way home, was taken into police custody after militants saw that he had a gun with him.

Then yesterday, before marching toward Malacañang, the demonstrators confronted a Marine sergeant detailed with the National Capital Region Command.

Rally marshals challenged Sgt. Fernando Alcantara, 35, on suspicion that he was an infiltrator.

Then they ganged up him, triggering scuffles.

The sergeant exchanged blows with the marshals in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform compound before being subdued by police, said information officer Carl Ala of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

An inspection of Alcantara's belongings yielded a .45 caliber pistol and a mission order from the Philippine Marines.

Bulge in the pocket

Ala said the mission order allegedly mentioned that one of Alcantara's assignments was to be on the lookout for Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists.

A burly man, Alcantara sustained bruises on his face and arms. At least three rally marshals were also hurt.

Alcantara was taken to the Quezon City Police District investigation division at Camp Karingal.

On Thursday night, the farmers confronted retired 2nd Lt. Eliseo Madrid, 60, after noticing a bulge in his pocket.

The militants ganged up on him, and showed police his .45 caliber Llama pistol in his pants, resulting in his arrest.

A camera bug

Madrid also had a camera with him. Upon questioning, he said he was on his way home to Tarlac.

He told police that he had been taking pictures of the demonstrators because he was also a photographer.

Investigator PO2 Aris San Jose said Madrid would be charged with violating Batas Pambansa 880, which prohibits the carrying of firearms during demonstrations.

The military confirmed it had deployed soldiers to monitor the rally in Quezon City as part of its job to secure the metropolis.

But Capt. Ramon Zagala II, spokesperson of the military's National Capital Region Command (NCRC), decried the beating of Alcantara by the protesters.

Zagala said Alcantara was just one of the soldiers assigned to monitor the militants amid reports that their ranks were infiltrated by the New People's Army.

HOW THE BEST-DRESSED protester looks like: Linggoy Alcuaz clad in a fireman's vest, accessorized with a carry-all pouch and the very last word in helmets. RYAN LIM

HAIL TO THE CHIEF. President Arroyo goes to the police side of the rally at the foot of Mendiola Bridge to commend the officers and men manning the barricade, promote the injured on the spot and generally boost the morale of the cops who have been on the frontline of defense of the Palace nearly every day for the past month. RYAN LIM

INC, El Shaddai reconciliation call receives mixed reaction

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

AN APPEAL BY LEADERS OF THE Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai for a political truce between President Macapagal-Arroyo and her foes yesterday drew support from one senator and a cold response from two opposition lawmakers.

Sen. Ralph Recto said the chasm between the administration and the opposition had grown so wide that "closing it may need the mediation" of El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and INC leader Bro. Eraño Manalo.

"Our leaders should heed the gospel of reconciliation according to Velarde and Manalo," Recto said. "In the two, we have blessed peacemakers, and our last hope for a just and principled end to the political crisis."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, said the call was misplaced, pointing out that it should have been directed at the administration camp alone.

"The problem is not with the opposition. If they would stop the looting of public funds and oppressing the people, we will stop criticizing. I don't see a problem there. What is there to criticize if they're not doing anything," he said.

Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, deputy minority leader in the House of Representatives, also said the appeal should have been addressed to Ms Arroyo, who "has refused to answer charges of cheating, lying and stealing," particularly on the allegation that she cheated in last year's election.

"A leader who suppresses civil liberties of the people and refuses to face investigation ... is not exactly fostering unity. She is instead sowing chaos," Cayetano said.

Cayetano added: "We only hope that President Arroyo will heed the call and at the same time allow the restoration of transparency and accountability in government, which is the true test of rule of law."

Tale of 2 protesters at farmers' 'Lakbayan'

From page A1

laban ko ang katarungan ng pagkamatay ng aking ama (When I see a soldier, something comes over me. That's why up to now, I am fighting for justice for my father's death)," he said.

Visibly the youngest among the marchers, Joselito had walked barefoot since Monday, having lost his slippers early on in the march.

Protest organizers said De los Santos' father was shot and killed by the military in Antipolo, Rizal, in 2001 while on a jeep carrying food for an election campaign of a party-list group.

A boy's memory

The older De los Santos had persistently opposed the reconstruction of a dam that would have submerged seven barangays, including their ricefield, along the boundaries of Quezon and Rizal.

Joselito was only 6 years old then. But he still remembered hearing the news on television about a suspected member of the New People's Army being ambushed by the military.

"It turned out it was my father," Joselito said.

Fourth in a brood of seven, the boy had been to other rallies before.

Heat and rain

Joselito wore a G-string of red cloth. On Ayala Avenue, on the fifth day of the march, he broke into a dance to entertain other protesters.

"I will endure the heat and the rain just to reach Mendiola," Joselito said, referring to the historic bridge, which has been renamed after pre-martial law Manila Times publisher Don Chino Roces.

Bautista, or "Ka Gimo," said his land was his family's lifeline.

"Without it, we are dead," he said.

Wealthy developers

The Bautistas' ricefield in Batangas has sustained four generations of the family. Once part of the Hacienda Looc in Nasugbu, the land was awarded to the Bautistas under the agrarian reform program.

But the Calabarzon project transforming agricultural estates into economic zones threatened the family's hold on the land, Bautista said.

In 1996, he set up a group to oppose the demolition of the ricefields by "wealthy developers."

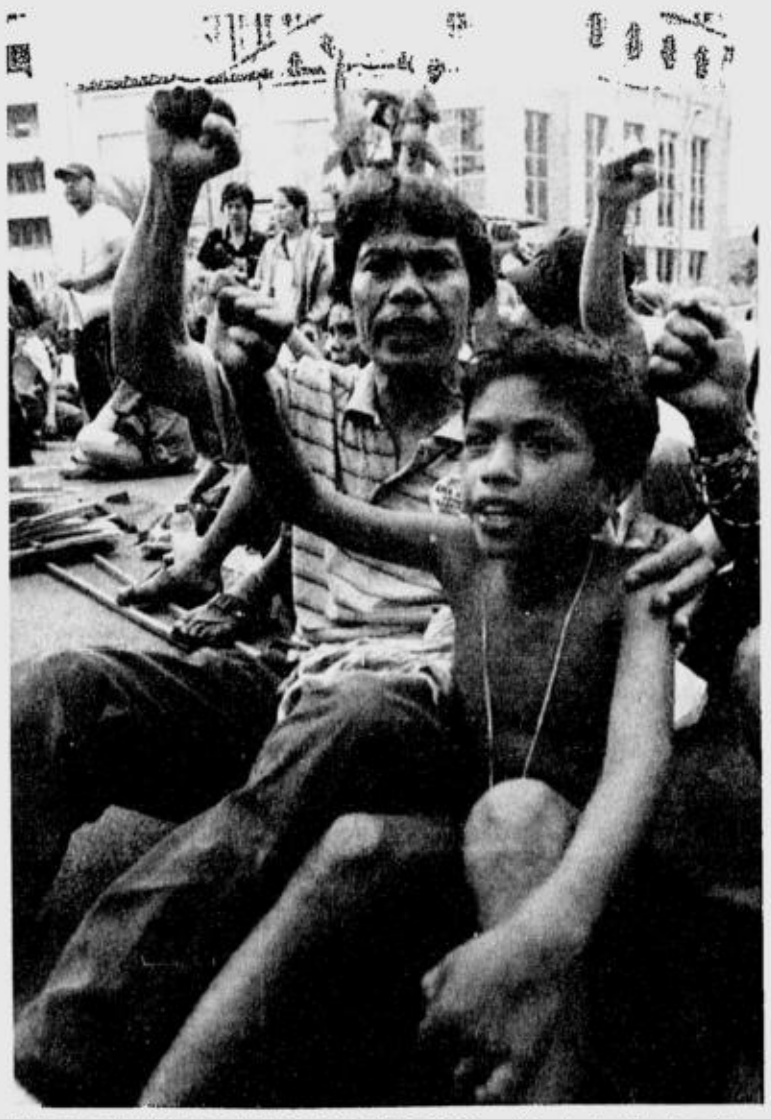
"I have received death threats and have been ambushed several times," he said.

This year's Lakbayan was his fifth.

Shielded Palace

"If I will not stand up for our rights, it will be my children who will suffer," he said.

Like Bautista, the boy Joselito never got to step on Mendiola yesterday.



THE BOY WHO LOST HIS CHILDHOOD, Joselito de los Santos, 10, with the man who lost his lands, Guillermo Bautista march together in the six-day Lakbayan from Southern Tagalog to join the push for Mendiola. JOAN BONDOC

Iglesia gags anti-GMA broadcasters

From page A1

"I am on an indefinite leave for personal reasons," was all Kua would say.

Olgado, on his part, said: "I'm just on vacation."

Sources said the Olgado-Kua tandem had been making critical commentaries about the administration even during the impeachment process against Ms Arroyo but that they were never told off until now.

A reporter of Net 25, the INC's television station, said she was not aware of any such directive.

Balanced news

"We have been told before that we just have to balance our reports," the Net 25 reporter told the INQUIRER. "If there is a criticism from the opposition, the side of the administration should be presented as well."

The reporter said she was not aware of any meeting called by INC officials to announce such a policy.

In their joint newspaper advertisement, the INC and the El Shaddai appealed to both the government and the opposition to set aside their political bickerings for the sake of the people.

Titled "A call to the nation's leaders by the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai," the open letter was signed by El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and INC executive minister Erano G. Manalo—one of the rare occasions the Catholic group and the INC sect had issued joint statements.

Nation hurting

The two leaders said they had refrained from issuing statements about the political situation in line with their policy of respecting church-state separation.

But they said increasing calls from their members and nonmembers, as well as the poor, compelled them to break their silence.

They said in their appeal that the months-long political bickerings "have been hurting our nation so much, particularly its economy."

They said political leaders had the means to survive even if the economy worsened but that the poor could hardly afford even the most basic necessities.

"It is high time they set aside their personal interests and attend to their duty of alleviating the sufferings of the Filipino people, for which they were put in office," the two leaders said.

Sacrifice needed

"We believe there is still hope in resolving the issues being raised by both sides through peaceful and constitutional means, if only they will offer to sacrifice a portion of what they believe are theirs to hold on to, for the sake of our suffering people," they said.

Only a few days ago, Velarde spoke to the INQUIRER to denounce as a "sign of disrespect to faith and beliefs" the government's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy toward protesters and the hosing down of a rally of Catholic bishops, priests, nuns and politicians near Mendiola.

Velarde urged Ms Arroyo to withdraw the CPR and hold reconciliation talks with her foes. He also proposed a referendum on whether Ms Arroyo should finish her term, which constitutionally will end in 2010.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UN probe links Syria to Hariri slay

UNITED NATIONS—A UN INVESTIGATION ACCUSING senior syrian and Lebanese officials of an intricate plot to kill former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was expected to prompt calls for action against Damascus.

The 53-page report by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis and his 30 investigators said the probe was still incomplete. In an accompanying letter to the report, released late on Thursday, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan extended the team's work until Dec. 15.

HARIRI AFP

Hariri and 20 others were killed last Feb. 14 by a bomb blast in Beirut that Mehlis said "could not have been taken without the approval of top-ranked Syrian security officials and could not have been further organized without the collusion of their counterparts in the Lebanese security forces."

One witness quoted in the report said Gen. Assef Shawkat, the brother-in-law of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, set up an Islamic militant, Ahmed Abu Adass, as a decoy to claim responsibility for the plot.

Shawkat, Syria's military intelligence chief, allegedly forced Adass to confess on a videotape two weeks before the assassination. But the suicide bomber was probably an Iraqi who thought he was killing Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, a visitor in Beirut shortly before the bombing, the report said.

Mehlis' report was the first official document to link Syria to the killing and was bound to heighten tensions in the region. Two anti-Syrian members of the Lebanese parliament immediately called for Lebanon's President Emile Lahoud to resign.

Lahoud, an ally of Syria, received a phone call minutes before the blast from the brother of a key figure in the plot, Ahmad Abdel-Al, who had phoned "all the important figures in this investigation." Abdel-Al is a leader of a pro-Syrian Lebanese charity group.

The United States has been talking to France and Britain on possible UN Security Council resolutions critical of Syria over its alleged involvement in the killing and other meddling in Lebanon, despite the withdrawal of its troops last April.

After the report's release, US Ambassador John Bolton said Washington would decide what to do in a few days but "obviously" had "considered various contingencies."

But Syria's Assad insisted last week that his country was "100 percent innocent" in the assassination.

However, Mehlis concluded the sophisticated plot took months of preparation and the motive was primarily political because of Hariri's opposition to Syrian domination of Lebanon.

But it said some of the participants may have been motivated by "fraud, corruption, and money-laundering."

"Given the infiltration of Lebanese institutions and society by the Syrian and Lebanese intelligence working in tandem, it would be difficult to envisage a scenario whereby such a complex assassination plot could have been carried out without their knowledge," Mehlis wrote.

He said several Syrians interviewed had given false or inaccurate statements, including Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara and his deputy, Walid al-Mualem.

According to one witness, a senior Lebanese security official went several times to Syria to plan the crime, meeting once at the Meridian Hotel in Damascus and several times at the Presidential Place and the office of a senior Syrian security official. The last meeting was held 7-10 days before the assassination, the report said.

The report presented damning evidence on the four pro-Syrian Lebanese generals arrested and charged earlier in connection with Hariri's killing, on Mehlis' recommendation.

One witness approached investigators to say he had met one of the four, Gen. Mustapha Hamdan, commander of the Republican Guard Brigade, in October 2004.

Hamdan talked very negatively about Hariri, accusing him of being pro-Israeli, the witness said. The general then ended the conversation by stating, "We are going to send him on a trip—bye, bye Hariri," the report said.

The Mehlis commission interviewed more than 400 people, reviewed 60,000 documents, identified several suspects and established numerous important leads in its first four months.

Other figures that unidentified witnesses had linked to the assassination plot included Gen. Rustom Ghazali, head of the Syrian military intelligence service in Lebanon and Brig. Gen. Jamil al-Sayyed, head of a Lebanese security force.

The report did not, however, mention Gen. Ghazi Kanaan, the former head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, who Syrian officials said committed suicide on Oct. 12. *Reuters*

Oregon player wins $340M lottery jackpot

WASHINGTON—A LUCKY GAMBLER IN THE US state of Oregon, who has yet to step forward, won the $340 million Powerball lottery top prize—the second biggest in US lottery history.

A US senator who played America's popular lottery on a whim this week failed to hit the jackpot, but still was one of 47 lucky players to walk away with a $853,000 runner-up purse.

New Hampshire's millionaire US Senator Judd Gregg, chair of the Senate Budget Committee, matched five out of six numbers in the popular lottery game, which is played in 29 US states simultaneously.

Gregg purchased $20 worth of tickets. *AFP*

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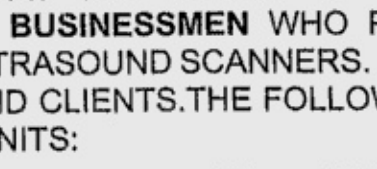

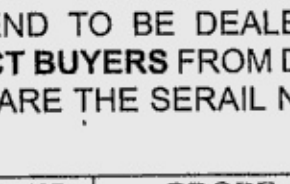

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Bird flu claims new Thai victim as world mobilizes

PARIS—THAILAND REPORTED ITS first human fatality from bird flu in a year Thursday as the world mobilized against a virulent strain of the virus still breaking out in Asia as it advances into Europe and menaces Africa.

A 48-year-old Thai farmer, who slaughtered and then ate a sick chicken, was the country's 13th bird flu victim.

A strain of avian influenza virus known as H5N1 has killed 60 people in Asia since 2003, and experts fear it might adapt or mutate to become easily transmissible between humans, potentially leading to a catastrophic pandemic.

"The risk of pandemic influenza is serious," according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

"With the H5N1 virus now firmly entrenched in large parts of Asia, the risk that more human cases will occur will persist," the WHO says on its website.

"Each additional human case gives the virus an opportunity to improve its transmissibility in humans, and thus develop into a pandemic strain...

"While neither the timing nor the severity of the next pandemic can be predicted, the probability that a pandemic will occur has increased," the organization added.

Thailand slaughtered poultry around the outbreak and the dead farmer's 7-year-old son was being checked for the virus at a Bangkok hospital.

In Europe, a preliminary test by a British laboratory showed no evidence of bird flu in a suspect turkey sent by Greece, offering some comfort for a continent alarmed by the virus' advance into the European part of Russia as well as Romania and Turkey.

But the European Commission said it could not yet rule out the presence of bird flu in Greece.

Also Thursday, the Commission formally banned imports of pet birds and feathers from nearly all Russian territory in an emergency procedure, after an outbreak of lethal bird flu south of Moscow.

And Ukraine's parliament slapped a six-month ban on imports of poultry and their derivatives following the discovery of the H5N1 strain in neighboring Russia and Romania.

Meanwhile, EU health ministers meeting near London agreed on the need for a continental stockpile of vaccines.

"We must build up stocks to be able to intervene in countries which don't have sufficient stocks of their own, and to intervene outside the EU's borders," French Health Minister Xavier Bertrand told reporters.

A formal decision on this issue is likely to come at the next official EU health ministers' meeting, scheduled for Dec. 8-9 in Brussels.

In a joint press statement, ministers also stressed the "critical nature" of giving Europeans clear and objective information "to reduce the likelihood of confusing messages."

"It is important to distinguish between avian flu, normal seasonal flu and pandemic flu," they said.

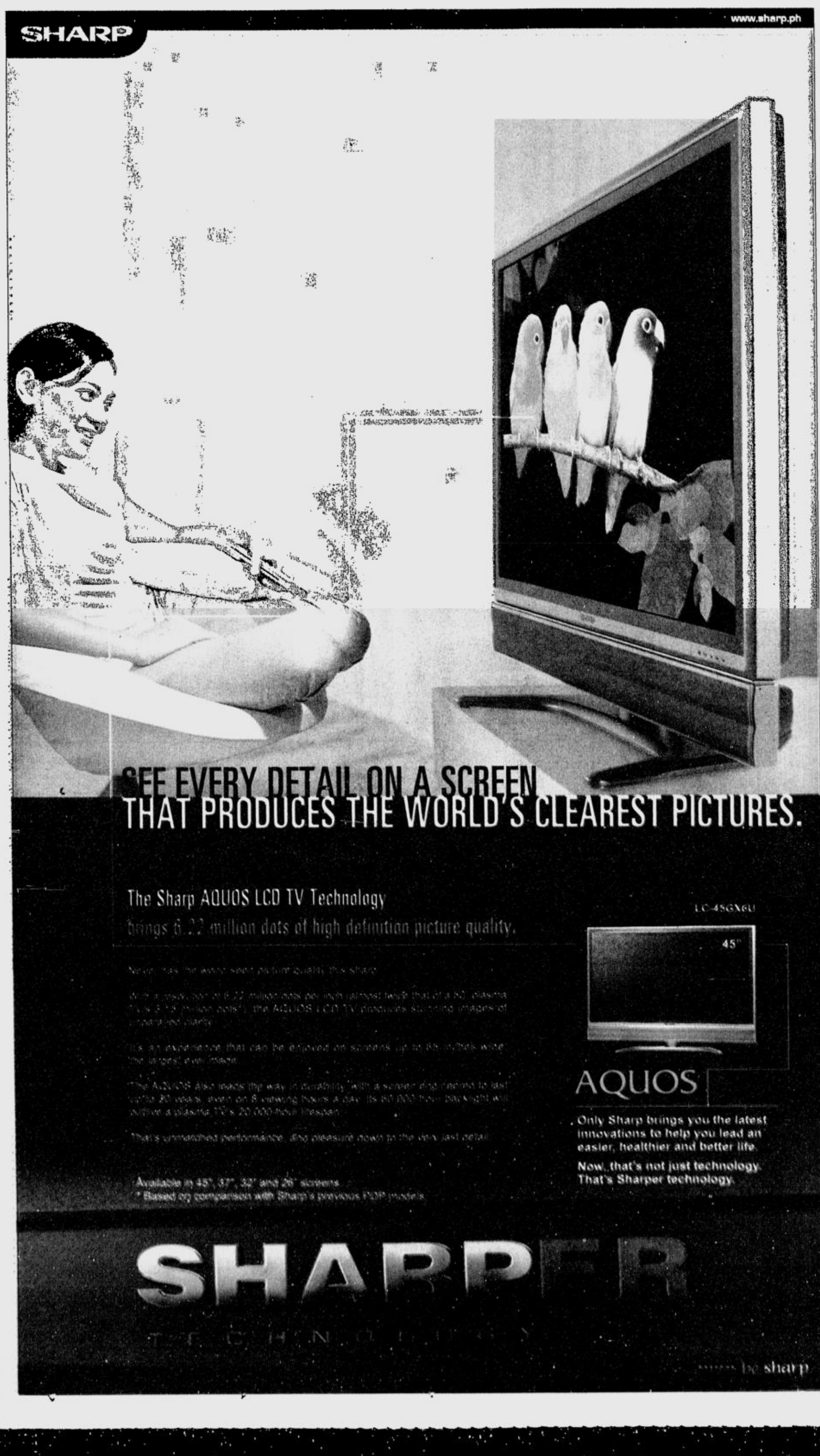
In Romania, which is hoping to join the European Union in 2007, authorities said tests have confirmed the presence of new cases of H5N1, after it was provisionally detected at the weekend.

Migratory birds may next take the virus to Africa, the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said this week, warning that the zone would be an "ideal breeding ground for the virus" because of close contact between people and animals.

Scientists have said that the east African Rift Valley countries of Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania, along with Uganda, are particularly threatened as they host millions of migratory fowl that fly to warmer climes during the European winter.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda put veterinary experts on high alert and imposed new bans or strengthened existing restrictions on poultry and wild bird imports. *AFP*

A MALLARD rests on the delta of river Po natural park in Cervia, north of Italy, Oct 16. The spread of bird flu is deemed unstoppable because of migratory birds. REUTERS



WorldBriefs

'Don't let them die'

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan—The UN begged the world Thursday not to abandon survivors of Pakistan's earthquake, warning of a second wave of deaths without a dramatic effort on a par with the Berlin airlift to reach stranded villagers. "We have never had this kind of logistical nightmare ever. We thought the tsunami was the worst we could get. This is worse," Jan Egeland, the United Nations emergency relief coordinator, said in Geneva. Nearly two weeks after the earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people in South Asia, Pakistan set up new helipads and Nato shipped tons of aid, but the United Nations estimated half a million people were still cut off. "Tens of thousands of people's lives are at stake and they could die if we don't get to them in time," Egeland said. *AFP*

Taliban body burning

WASHINGTON—The United States on Thursday expressed concern about a film of US soldiers burning the bodies of two suspected Taliban militants which comes as a new blow to the image of the US military. "From our point of view, these are very serious allegations, and if true, very troublesome," State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack said, commenting on the alleged desecration of the bodies reported by Australian television. He said that an investigation would be held "and if there is, in fact, wrongdoing that was found, then those who are responsible for that wrongdoing will be held to account." News of the burning of the Taliban fighters in violation of Islamic tradition came as the United States struggled to overcome its tarnished reputation after the sexual humiliation of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and allegations of mistreatment of inmates at the Guantanamo Bay "war on terror" camp in Cuba. *AFP*

DeLay mug shot taken

HOUSTON, Texas—Top Republican power broker Tom DeLay visited a sheriff's office on Thursday to be photographed, fingerprinted and released on bail after being charged with conspiracy and money laundering. The former Republican head of the House of Representatives spent less than 30 minutes at the Harris County sheriff's office, in the Houston suburbs, during which he posted a $10,000 bond, officials said. A Texas court issued an arrest warrant for him on Wednesday, part of the formal procedure before he makes a first court appearance on Friday. DeLay, a close ally of President George W. Bush, was accused last month of conspiracy to violate state election law by diverting corporate donations to candidates for the Texas state legislature. But less than a week later, a separate grand jury added a new charge of money laundering. *AFP*

DELAY REUTERS

Saddam trial lawyer taken

BAGHDAD—A lawyer working on the defense of a co-accused in the trial of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was kidnapped late Thursday by armed men who stormed into his office just a day after the process started. The bizarre twist to the already dramatic beginning of the trial came as a reporter from the British Guardian newspaper who was kidnapped while reporting in Baghdad the day earlier was freed following interior ministry intervention. Kidnapped lawyer Saadoun Janabi is an attorney for Awad Hamad Al-Bandar Al-Sadun, one of Saddam's seven co-defendants in trial for a 1982 massacre of Shiites in the town of Dujail. A defiant Saddam and seven former regime officials all pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges including murder and torture on the first day of a trial by millions watched across the globe. *AFP*

Lipitor patent upheld

NEW YORK—Pfizer Inc. said today the United Kingdom's High Court of Justice has upheld the exclusivity of the main patent covering atorvastatin, the active ingredient in Lipitor, until November 2011. "This is an important victory not only for Pfizer but for all innovators pursuing high-risk medical discoveries that benefit current and future generations of patients around the world," said Pfizer chairman and CEO Hank McKinnell. "Lipitor is one of the most important medical breakthroughs of our era, and millions of patients have used it to lower their cholesterol. Recently, Lipitor has been approved in the United States to reduce the risk of stroke and heart attacks in a broad range of patients," McKinnell said. "This court decision is consistent with the fundamental principle that patent laws exist to support and encourage medical innovators, not undermine them."

Wilma pounds Mexico resorts

CANCUN, MEXICO—LASHING WIND AND rain pounded Mexican beach resorts on Friday and thousands of tourists hunkered down in shelters to escape Hurricane Wilma, which was hammering Caribbean resorts on its way to densely populated southern Florida.

Heavy rain was coming down in diagonal sheets and howling winds were buckling sturdy trees.

Tourists were evacuated from luxury beachfront hotels all along Mexico's "Maya Riviera" coast and the normally calm, turquoise Caribbean seas heaved and Wilma dumped rain on streets patrolled by soldiers ordering people to take cover.

Described by forecasters as extremely dangerous and at its height later on Friday expected to send a 3-meter surge of water over the coast, Wilma killed 10 people in mudslides in Haiti earlier in the week.

Cuba evacuated 220,000 people and residents of southern Florida stocked up on drinking water and gas to prepare for Wilma, which hammered the coasts of Mexico and Belize with winds of around 240 kph.

Mexican authorities said close to 22,000 tourists and local residents had been evacuated from low-lying coastal areas. In one gymnasium shelter in Cancun, 1,600 people spent the night on mattresses on the floor. One local entrepreneur sold T-shirts, perhaps prematurely, with the logo: "I survived Hurricane Wilma," at $10 each.

About 100 bored-looking foreign tourists stood talking in groups under chandeliers in the cavernous marble lobby of the Hotel Royal Porto Real, near the sea front in Playa del Carmen, another resort just south of Cancun.

"It was meant to be the fortnight holiday of a lifetime," said 28-year-old Simon Hayes, one of four friends on holiday from Britain. "This is not how I envisaged it working out."

Conditions were far tougher for hundreds of migrant construction workers, mostly from the impoverished southern state of Chiapas, who were evacuated from temporary digs in outdoor camps and building sites.

In a kindergarten near Playa del Carmen's beachfront, 50 men sat on the concrete floor of a classroom, too cramped for them to lie down, digging into cans of donated tuna fish with their hands. "This sucks," said Juan Cruz Perez, a 21-year-old migrant metal worker from the Gulf state of Tabasco.

Still, at one hotel doubling as a shelter because of its distance from the beachfront, Welshman Lee Watkins praised the Mexican emergency services and local people for their help in the evacuation.

"They got us out in plenty of time and as soon as we got here, the food started coming," said Watkins, a sales manager. "Mexican people have come here to cook for us." *Reuters*

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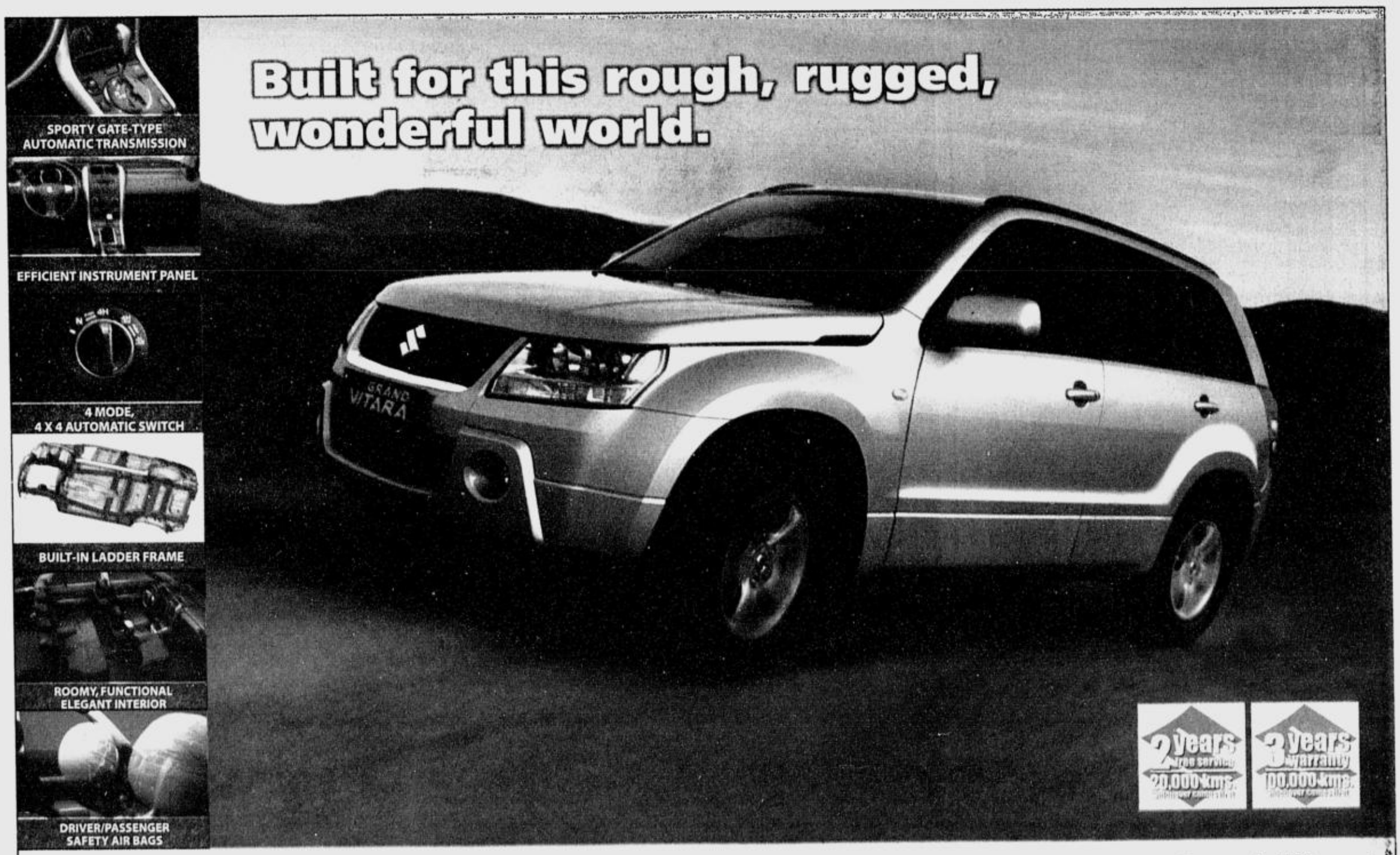

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OPINION

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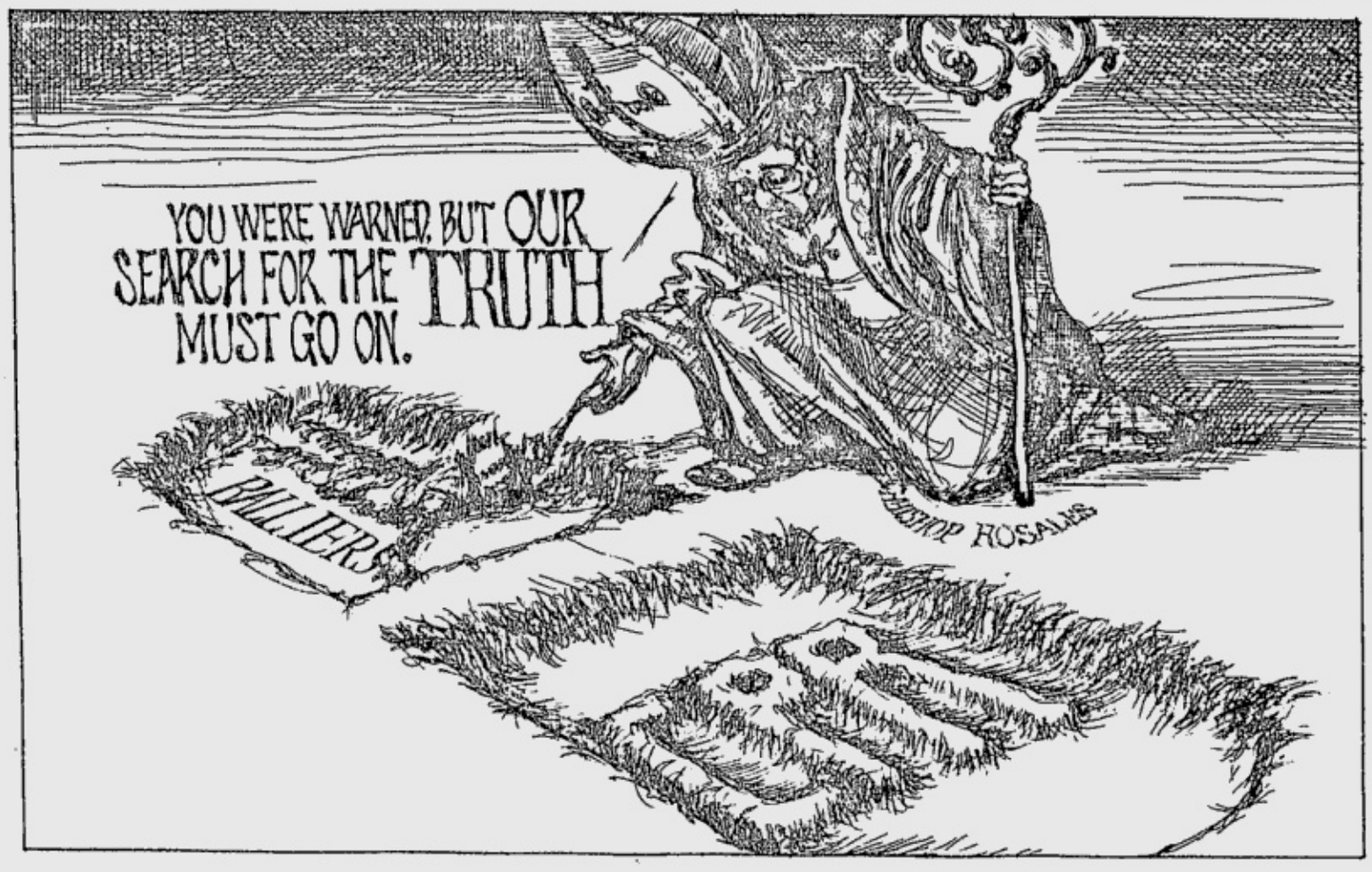


Hunger

IT SEEMS INCONCEIVABLE THAT PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is waxing euphoric on the "winds of globalization" and the necessity of unfurling the sails of the Philippine ship of state "to ride those winds," with the legal obstacles to the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law out of the way. Oil prices being the way they are, the prospects are hardly rosy; the public mood is verging on the ugly. While the fast-approaching yearend holidays are traditionally a period of high spending, the middle class—or what's left of it—is almost certainly hunkering down for a season bleaker than most. Sacrifice or no, the value of the peso (for those who have it, and those who don't are legion) is beyond stretching. And at the risk of sounding frivolous, we're not even getting started on how the cost of electricity will impinge on Christmas lights and lanterns, those bright, blinking gewgaws beloved by kids from 1 to 92.

EDITORIALS

No, exhortations for "sacrifice" and "patience" won't cut it—not this time. The fact is that the wisdom of instituting fiscal reforms to strengthen flawed structures for the ultimate aim of producing what the President calls an "efficient state" has been blurred by the bald reality of the here and now. In case the President has become mired in isolation (and power does that), hunger is stalking the state's "poorest and weakest" constituents. In the countryside, for example, farm women are said to have turned to prostitution to be able to put food on the table. And in the urban centers, wild-eyed children roaming the streets present a chilling glimpse of the future.

The case of public school teachers Rex and Marie San Diego and their two children illustrates how members of the vastly eroded middle class will be hard put to cope with the EVAT, the President's promise of "lasting rewards" including "more jobs and livelihood opportunities" and "better social services" notwithstanding. With the San Diegos' combined take-home pay of P16,700 insufficient to cover monthly expenses of P21,540, the family can be expected to continue running on loans and a deficit until, as the man of the house put it, he and his wife find jobs overseas.

(It is to the advantage of the motherland that Marie San Diego, a teacher of English and a cum laude graduate of the Philippine Normal University, is not moving heaven and earth to take off and head to parts north on the planet, where her expertise will pay better—and well. She is concerned about her children being "still quite young" for her to leave and work abroad. And, explaining the choice she and Rex had made in teaching at the Quezon City Science High School, and not in a private school, she said: "This is where we think we are most needed.")

As it is, the San Diegos and others like them who have a support system made up of kith and kin (Rex's father owns the unit for which they pay rent, often on loan) are leading a lifestyle so simple as to be unimaginable among the chichi set. But with EVAT, and the concomitant additions on the costs of electricity, public transportation, prepared meals, groceries, and so on down the line, that no-frills lifestyle will have to be pared down still, if at all possible.

In the projection of Ibon executive director Rosario Bella Guzman, the San Diegos and others like them will ultimately have to do what they would otherwise never think of doing: scrimp on food.

Hunger. Can the P120 billion in additional revenues expected from EVAT be a worthy match?

Food for thought

ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, WHOSE ECOnomic expertise is widely touted, the EVAT will help the government balance the budget, reduce the Philippine debt, and allow for better financing for rural programs. But the fundamental questions have remained unanswered for far too long: Have government economists ever produced the promised results? Have they proved effective in, at the very least, shrinking the yawning gulf between the rich and the poor?

The fact is that all economic projections are gambles, and so-called safety nets are not foolproof. Certainly, economists do not control the market. And the "dethronement" of the Keynesian model in the 1970s, for its failure to sustain real growth, arrest unemployment and hold down inflation, ought to be food for thought.

ATO's favorite airlines

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I'M STILL WONDERING WHAT IRRESISTIBLE hold Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific have on the Air Transportation Office that they can insolently violate their own solemn commitment to limit their flights over Merville and other neighboring subdivisions in Parañaque City with impunity and without remorse.

That promise was made by them to the Blue Ribbon Committee of the Senate and later communicated to me by its chair, Sen. Joker P. Arroyo, who had conducted a hearing on the complaint of the residents of Merville. They were protesting the excessive noise of the airplanes of the said two companies that were flying over their village at all hours of the day, even in early mornings.

Earlier, a delegation from our village had voiced the same complaint at the television program of Noli de Castro before he became a public official. Several witnesses, including ear experts, declared that the noise caused by the respondent airlines was far above the normal hearing level, to the detriment especially of the children. Some of them were studying in schools in Merville where classes were frequently interrupted by the offending airplanes.

As a long-time homeowner in Merville, I joined in the protests, which I have discussed in at least 10 articles so far since I started writing this column in 1995. Residents in our subdivision and neighboring villages, and even environmentalists not directly affected, supported my complaint against the noise pollution being caused by the abusive airplanes. Other concerned citizens sympathized with us and shared our indignation.

Sen. Loren Legarda arranged a luncheon conference between me and the then ATO chief, a retired general, who made promises he did not fulfill. Rep. Roilo Golez and later Rep. Eduardo Zialcita filed resolutions for the investigation of our complaint, but nothing came out of their *pro forma* gestures. Sen. Manuel Villar introduced a bill to be called the Aviation Noise Limit Act, but I have not heard about it since it was filed three years ago.

Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific reluctantly agreed to schedule their flights over Merville only from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, except in case of emergencies. They rejected the suggestion that they equip their airplanes with hush kits or transfer their operations to the International Airport, explaining that both alternatives were expensive. The first duty of public utilities like airlines is to serve the people, not their owners, but the flimsy excuse pleaded by the offending companies was accepted by the ATO.

Although the remedy the airlines promised was far from satisfactory, it became more so because it was not observed in good faith. The flights are made outside the scheduled period with insolent frequency and even in early Sunday mornings. Sometimes the flights occur in quick succession as if in a military operation, to our particular inconvenience. Senator Arroyo once called me up, and our telephone conversation was interrupted by an ear-splitting airplane that gave him factual evidence of our complaint.

I realize that Congress has more important work to perform, like the approval of the general appropriations bill, the anti-terrorism bill, and many legislative investigations that have been challenged by President Macapagal-Arroyo with her Executive Order No. 464. But this does not excuse its inaction on the less serious problems of communities like Merville, which has been suffering from the health hazards and noise pollution caused for years without let-up by the impudent airlines.

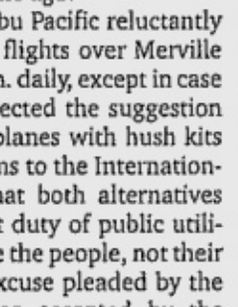
Surely the well-being of the people is more important than the pecuniary interests of the airlines that have refused to moderate the noise of their airplanes as a costly requirement. They have also pleaded that they would have to consume more aviation gas if they were to transfer their flights to the International Airport like PAL. PAL has been operating in this airport for years and has not received any complaint from the people in the surrounding areas. Like a doting parent, the ATO has accepted the excuses given by its favorite airlines, to our prejudice.

Our problem has been festering for years and has even aggravated with the increase in the number of prohibited flights and the volume of the noise they create to our detriment and annoyance. We are little people compared to the millionaires who own the privileged airlines, but this does not deprive us of the right to the concern and protection of the government which has denied us relief over these many years.

To repeat, what is the irresistible hold of Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific over the Air Transportation Office that prevents it from exercising its regulatory powers over these airlines as if they were the lord and master of the skies above our community? Civilized countries have even banned the entry or use of oppressive airplanes, but we don't even regulate their flights and the volume of their injurious noise.

Stench of hypocrisy

GET REAL



Solita Collas-Monsod

AFTER A WEEK OF SCREAMING HEADLINES, pictures, reports, interviews, opinion columns, statements of both outrage and support from bishops, governors, mayors—everyone who wanted to get their two cents in (including the publicity-hungry)—the facts about the "cannonization" that took place Friday last week are finally coming to light. And the picture that emerges is such a far cry from what we originally thought, or were made to believe that the importance of refraining from jumping to conclusions before getting all the facts is again underscored.

Fiction: The prayer rally and procession led by the three bishops (Labayen, Tobias and Iñiguez), plus two images of the Virgin Mary being held aloft, was brutally dispersed by the police using water cannons. It was this mental picture of three aging bishops and their flock being hosed down while participating in a harmless prayer rally and procession that elicited outrage from the general public as well as strong critical reactions from some other bishops and religious leaders, and some days later (better late than never), El Shaddai's Mike Velarde.

Fact No. 1: The permit asked for and given was for a prayer rally in Plaza Miranda and a procession to San Sebastian Church. These took place and were completed. After which, Bishop Antonio Tobias took his leave. Bishop Julio Labayen, by force of circumstance did not participate in any march; he rode in a van. Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez stayed on, but was somewhere in the back per instruction of the rally marshals. The police view: The nuns carrying the religious images also left in a jeepney which Police Superintendent Sapitala helped them to get and which took them back to Paco Church. Oscar Orbos' view: The nuns and their religious images were still with the group, although now in the back rather than in front, after the proceedings at the San Sebastian Church.

Conclusion 1: The prayer rally could not have been dispersed (brutally or otherwise), because it had already ended, at least as far as the requested and approved permit was concerned.

Conclusion 2: None of the bishops or nuns were "cannonized."

Fact No. 2: There was a group (what the PNP call a breakaway group, but my colleague Oscar Orbos says it was the same main group) that wanted to proceed to Mendiola after San Sebastian. The articulated reason was that they wanted to continue their prayers at the San Beda chapel. Not surprisingly, the police refused to allow this, there being no permit to go to Mendiola (which Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has designated a no-rally zone). This is where the "fun" began.

Fact No. 3: The water cannon did not disperse the crowd. What it succeeded in doing was to separate the "combatants"—the police and that subgroup of marchers who seemed to be engaged in a scuffle—dampening (no pun intended) the aggressive spirits of both sides. After the hoses were shut off, the negotiations continued, and Orbos and three others were allowed to walk to San Beda, where Rene Saguisag and students were reportedly waiting.

Interpretation 1 (police view): The water cannon was applied to prevent possible bloodshed, and it did, because it separated the scufflers, both policemen and marchers. The intent was to separate, not to disperse. The marchers had no effective leadership.

Interpretation 2 (Orbos): It was a stupid mistake of the deputy ground commander. (I myself think that it could have been a knee-jerk panic reaction.) There was no danger of violence. The intent was to disperse, but the group refused to be cowed. The police had no coordination.

Here's my take on the whole thing: First, it is obvious there is no black and white here; this is not a situation where the forces of good are pitted against the forces of evil. It is more like a case of the pot calling the kettle black. The ralliers were trying to push the envelope, the police were knee-jerking.

Just as there were people of good faith among the ralliers, there were people of good faith among the police. In the same way, there were people with malice aforethought in both groups: a group of marchers making a mockery of the prayers and litanies they were reciting (nothing prayerful about what was being said and how it was being shouted) and some wielders of the water hoses grinning maliciously before training the hoses on the crowd.

There is bad faith on both sides. A clear example to my mind are members of the Black and White Movement claiming that they merely wanted to go to the San Beda chapel to worship, and after being escorted by the police to the chapel, coming out and saying that they had set a precedent for rallies on Mendiola.

Let us remind ourselves, please, that the "parliament of the streets" was born under martial law because all avenues (Congress, the courts, the media) for seeking redress or ventilating issues were blocked from us. This is certainly not the case today (we even have the Commission on Human Rights), so there is really no need for the parliament of the streets. Moreover, with regard to those members of Congress (e.g., Jamby Madrigal, Satur Ocampo) who choose to do so, does this mean that they think their institution is inutile? If so, why don't they resign from their positions?

It is not only the smell of mendacity that is in the air. It is also the stench of hypocrisy. Killing our country slowly—and not so softly.

Protests mount over rallies

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS THIS COLUMN WAS BEING WRITTEN YESterday afternoon, six police personnel, mostly women, had suffered physical injuries during an encounter with marchers from Laguna. One policewomen was injured seriously. Some marchers were said to be wielding truncheons with nails. It is clear that the militants fighting President Macapagal-Arroyo are determined to provoke government forces into retaliation in no-rally zones, instead of converging in the "freedom parks." Obviously the anti-GMA forces want to project continuing political instability, regardless of the consequences to the economy.

* * *

Situations such as yesterday's street protest can create the kind of tension and confusion that trigger unfortunate consequences such as serious injuries to people and even killings. This is why there is a need to scrupulously avoid carrying guns that itchy fingers might use. Sen. Jamby Madrigal's argument, therefore, that her bodyguard brought a gun to protect her does not wash, and he ought to be prosecuted. While he sought to protect her, his gun posed a real danger to the other ralliers as well as the police. In invoking that argument, Madrigal was indulging in a proletarian activity but thinking like a capitalist: that she deserves her own set of rules.

* * *

Yesterday's march was led by left-wing party-list representatives, and red flags were all over the place. Interestingly, the political opposition was visibly absent (*natakot siguro sa salpukan)*. I realize that Rep. Satur Ocampo has kept a high profile in recent demos and rallies, but I won't buy the news item yesterday quoting military sources as claiming that the "Ka Satur" referred to in some documents reportedly captured in Aurora was the Bayan Muna sectoral representative. The military hinted that he could be the financier of a big shipment of arms recently captured there. Having the name "Ka Satur" on the documents, however, seems contrived. I imagine that they would use pseudonyms. *Hindi naman ganoon ka gago siguro ang mga komunista.*

* * *

Various sectors have condemned the continuing demonstrations and rallies mounted by opposition forces against the administration. The World Bank has pointed out that the political instability is hurting foreign investments. Businessmen complain about how business in the shopping malls and restaurants has dropped, while commuters complain about the terrible traffic snags. On the other hand, I'm glad that school authorities along the University Belt have come out to protest the disruption of school activities due to the rallies there. They have called for a total ban on such activities there. The five schools in Mendiola should support this ban. The fact is that citizens want to go on with their lives, free from the inconveniences caused by these rallies.

* * *

But just as worrisome is the effect these rallies have on the crime situation in the metropolis, as they tie up scores of policemen who should be running after criminals. Dean Amado Valdez of the University of the East College of Law recently related to us on our regular Sunday evening program over dzRH that one justice lost his car to a holdup man who pointed a gun at him after he let off his driver in Baesa, Quezon City.

Everyone saw on TV scores of policemen "escorting" the Hyatt 10 to the San Beda chapel where they wanted to "pray." Being jobless, the Hyatt 10 may have become more prayerful. But it's good to remind them that God loves those who don't make a show of beating their breasts publicly and ringing church bells when they pray, but most specially if they don't take the police away from their real jobs, which is to secure the citizens against crimes.

* * *

The launch of Roger Olivares' book, "Noli Me Tangere 2," at the Carmelite Monastery on Gilmore Avenue, Quezon City, a week ago, with the kind permission of Mother Prioress Rose Ann Dominique, was a trip down heroes' lane. Roger seeks to transport the characters of Jose Rizal in the "Noli" to contemporary times. Roger said his interest in our national hero began when he was 7 years old and his godfather, Don Estanislao Herbosa, Rizal's nephew, showed him the lamp where the hero hid his "Mi Ultimo Adios." The story had a huge impact on him.

Appropriately, former Sen. Jovito Salonga, who was the keynote speaker, recited two poems, "Kung Tuyo na ang Luha Mo, Aking Bayan" by Amado V. Hernandez, and "Katulad ng Maulawin" by Rafael Zulueta da Costa, imploring Rizal not to leave yet as the country continued to face many problems. Sen. Joker Arroyo also dwelt on the theme of the country in search of heroes, as he recalled a recent conversation with some students. He asked them what they knew of the martyr for freedom, Ninoy Aquino, and their faces were blank. Then he asked them if they were aware of Ninoy's widow, Cory Aquino, and they vaguely answered in the affirmative. But when Joker asked them if they knew Kris Aquino, they all screamed yes.

This reminds me of the quotation from German playwright Bertolt Brecht, quoted by Fr. Nono Alfonso, S.J., in this space recently: "Unhappy the land that has no heroes. No, unhappy the land that is in need of heroes."

* * *

Roger Olivares invites creative writers as well as aspiring writers to a dialog this evening from 6-9 p.m. at Powerbooks in Greenbelt 3, Makati, on how Filipino writers can break into the international market. He will share visualization exercises, samples of strong opening paragraphs and other techniques and trends in the international market. Intriguing is the question: Why have few, if any, Filipino writers made it in the international market, when Chinese, Japanese, Latin American and African writers have been very successful? He opines that perhaps foreign publishers could be convinced to publish local writers if they realized how big the OFW market is. But first, I think, Filipinos have to be taught how to read and love books.

Writing about boxing

YOUNG BLOOD

Bernard Inocentes S. Garcia

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I LOVE BOXING. THE SIGHT OF TWO GLADIATORS IN THE ring trying to kill each other excites me. Seeing blood on their faces excites me even more.

Sept. 11 this year was one of the most explosive days in all of Philippine sports. I was on Cloud Nine. Three magnificent Filipino fighters scored sensational knockouts atop the ring at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Man, was I proud! Who could have thought it possible?

Don't get me wrong. I have never underestimated the Filipino. I am a Filipino and despite all the bad things happening in the country, I am still proud to be one. The three Filipino boxers made me leap out of my seat wanting to shout a la Bamboo *"Hoy pinoy ako!"* as I waved my hands, with my eyes closed, humming the lyrics in ecstasy.

Dubbed as "Double Trouble," the glorious Sunday boxing event turned out to be a triple victory for the country. It started with Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista. Touted as the next big thing in Philippine boxing, the 19-year-old Boholano lived up to his billing as he knocked out in the third round the Colombian Felix Murillo.

I wanted to go up the stage when it happened. I would have destroyed the TV set if that was the only way to get there. "Bring it on, Boom Boom!" I found myself shouting as the Filipino pummeled the Colombian with hammer-like punches.

Then Fil-Am Brian Viloria entered the arena. Known as the "Hawaiian Punch," he climbed up the ring proudly waving the Philippine flag. I could feel the hair on my skin standing as I saw the lovely red, white and blue on display to a worldwide audience.

Before I knew it, the kill happened. The tiny 24-year-old Fil-Am fighter unleashed the full power of his fists and knocked out the Mexican defending champion Eric Ortiz in the final seconds of the first round. Awesome!

I almost cried when the Waipahu-Hawaii native shouted with his American twang: *"Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Mahal na mahal ko ang Philippines. Aloha Hawaii!"* If only Filipinos would take as much pride in our heritage.

Then it was the turn of the country's hottest sports icon, Manny Pacquiao, in his blazing red "No Fear" battle gear. How I wanted to be like Pacman! His every movement seemed to captivate millions around the world.

When the fight started, I felt my heart pounding harder. What if Manny would fail us? What if one lucky punch would knock the smile out of his face? What would happen to Filipino pride?

The GenSan sports hero proved my fears wrong. He knocked out the 30-year-old Hector Velasquez in the sixth round. He did it with a well-timed bomb to the midsection of the Mexican's tummy, taking the air out of his body. Soon after, the Mexican warrior dropped to his knees with his head bowed.

That was the face of defeat, but, I am sorry to say that to me it looked lovely.

The three Filipino victories made my day. They touched me and inspired me to do something that would make my brown brothers proud. I wanted to shout to the whole world that I am a Filipino.

How to do it was the biggest question. Had I trained earlier, I would have given any boxer a run for his money. I could probably knock out the hero from South Cotabato with a single punch if only my mother had bought me a pair of gloves instead of a Donald Duck book.

By now I would have been popular. And not only would I make the whole nation proud, I would also be rich and see myself on TV. I would have been kissing the loveliest actresses of Philippine movies. In between shootings, I could have said: "Ah, Juliana, just wait for me. I'll be there." And to Aubrey Miles, I would declare my love publicly.

But I am not the famous boxer. Boxing gloves look awkward on my fists and I move like a mule. But I love boxing, and after watching a boxing match, I hurry to the improvised punching bag at the back of our house.

My cousin has often told me my soft hands have power. But as I deliver strong blows to the old punching bag, it is me who gets beaten. I can't survive two minutes of the hard routine. And I cannot even do 20 sit-ups at one time.

Worse, every time I hit the bag, wild thoughts would distract me. All of a sudden, I would have this urge to read about Manny's victories or look again at the FHM issue where Aubrey Miles was splashed on Pages 9 to 14 almost in all her naked glory. If only boxing were as easy as looking at stuff like that, I would have been a champion fighter.

Boxing inspires me to write, though. Today, for instance, I have decided to express the joy I feel not only for the Filipino boxers but also for the entire nation. A thousand times I have heard the fights being talked about by my friends. They just cannot stop talking about them. Time and again, I have heard them proudly discussing and dissecting the same fights as if all of us had not seen them.

That's the reason I decided to put it all down in writing. I have to tell you guys my version of how Manny whipped the Mexican in the sixth round. If you know about it, just read on. There's something more about boxing here.

This is also about the other thing I love next to boxing: writing. Don't get me wrong. I don't mean writing a 12-page report on how Albert Einstein came up with $E=MC^2$ or that 30 pages of assignment I had to do for my Chemistry class explaining how calcium and potassium when mixed with hydrogen chloride could turn into a bomb.

There I got you. I know that isn't the way to make bombs, you terrorist!

The only bombs I want to write about are the kind boxers throw. I want to describe their fearlessness and deadly accuracy as they hurl those bombs. If I cannot describe adequately the glorious music they make as they fly in the air and suddenly crash on the opponent's face, I'm sorry.

Writing is my enemy. I usually have writer's block even before I can finish a sentence. This is an exception. Unlike my earlier attempts when I had to search for beautiful words that just didn't come, this time the words seemed to flow smoothly. If my sexy babes, Juliana and Aubrey, appeared along the way, don't blame me. They are part of boxing now. The sports hero just snatches them away. Manny is certainly one lucky guy!

But I love him, anyway. He is a small-barrio boy, and he makes us barrio boys proud. He shows us the way.

Would I ever make it as a boxer? Not anymore, I think. At 28, I'm an old warrior.

Would I make it as a writer? I don't think so, either. I don't have the gift for words. But I don't really care. As long as boxing is there, I'll keep on writing.

Bernard Inocentes S. Garcia, 28, teaches philosophy at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City. He is also reviewing for the 2006 bar exams.

Inside the PBB house

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS WE EXITED THE "PINOY BIG BROTHER House," almost directly across the street from the ELJ building in the ABS-CBN complex, we found clumps of onlookers standing on the sidewalk. Some were peering through the bars of the gate, others posing for pictures set against the house's façade. Cars slowed down, passengers' faces pressed against the windows. On Saturdays, I was told, when the latest housemate to be evicted rejoins the "real" world, hundreds of family members, friends, fans and the merely curious throng the street, blocking all traffic.

What most people don't realize is that the "house" they're looking at is actually a complex of structures: the living area of the housemates, including a landscaped garden and pool area, a master control room that monitors everything that goes on in the house, and a winding corridor lined with windows that look into the living quarters.

As a special treat, our media group was brought into the "camera ring," a darkened corridor that surrounds the house and allows four cameras that move from spot to spot to surreptitiously film everything the residents do and say. This is, of course, apart from the 26 ceiling-mounted cameras inside the living quarters, including two inside the bathroom, though producers took pains to make clear that the bathroom cameras are angled in such a way that the residents' privacy is respected.

So there we were, prowling the dark hall, carefully sliding away the black curtains to get a glimpse of the "inmates," as one of us bluntly called them. To be honest, none of them seemed to be doing anything particularly interesting. Sam, the newest resident, was enjoying a late lunch while dragging on a cigarette between bites. One young man was seated by himself by the pool. Jenny was indulging in her favorite pastime, "ironing" her hair and jolting those of us staring at her through the two-way mirror when she suddenly laughed at her reflection.

* * *

BOSTON Globe columnist Ellen Goodman once wrote that someday there will be a TV show "about a family that sits around watching TV watching another family sitting around watching TV." How was she to know that a few years after putting this preposterous notion in print, John de Mol in 1999 would launch "Big Brother" the TV show, a "real-life soap" that featured a group of strangers sharing communal quarters and struggling not to be voted out of the house.

"Big Brother" immediately became a broadcasting phenomenon, the original serving as a template for versions in 31 countries around the world, including "panregional" versions that air in clusters of countries. "Pinoy Big Brother" first aired on Aug. 21 and has since come to dominate its prime-time slot (opposite the Korean telenovela "My Sassy Girl" on GMA-7).

Frankly, I can't quite understand the show's appeal. The few times I managed to catch a PBB broadcast, I wondered what kind of entertainment people could wring from a show where the "actors" seemed to be doing nothing more interesting than brush their hair, sit around on couches lazily speculating on all sorts of matters, and engage in contrived "challenges" that are supposed to test their ability to work together as well as test their limits to see how far they would go to please "Big Brother."

* * *

BUSINESS unit head Laurenti Dyogi looks nothing like "Big Brother" possibly could. And he denies it's his voice that alternately berates, rewards and renders verdicts on the remaining housemates.

But in a bigger sense he is "big brother," the supervising producer who stays on top not just of events inside the PBB house, but more importantly, of the 24/7 coverage and the more than a hundred editors, technicians, production and maintenance people who make life in the PBB house not just run smoothly but also recorded in full.

"It's a study of human behavior and group dynamics," Dyogi says to explain the show's puzzling appeal. He himself appreciates, he says, how the residents have evolved, mentioning Uma, one of the more recognized and controversial housemates, who has changed from a whining, stubborn and sulking rebel to a more reasonable, cooperative and caring team member.

* * *

PBB has served to blur the boundaries between "reality" and "entertainment." ABS-CBN dubs the show *"ang tele-serye ng totoong buhay"* (a real-life soap opera), but the show begs the question of what indeed is reality and what is artifice. Is it "real," for instance for 12 strangers to be cooped up together in one house (with one bathroom!) for 100 days, with no contact with the outside world save for faceless Big Brother and a counselor whom they see once a week?

And do viewers truly believe that what they see on TV on PBB is "reality"? Can people truly be their authentic selves under the glare of 30 cameras and millions of viewers?

I asked Dyogi if the housemates were not somehow "acting out" larger-than-life versions of themselves to attract public attention and perhaps ensure a show-biz career even after they left the house. "Maybe in the beginning they were," he admits, "but when you're covered 24 hours a day, you can't help but let your real personality show."

Judging by the interest generated by the house, as well as the following the show has generated, with viewers able to identify the housemates by face and name, the audience doesn't seem unduly troubled by this blurring of boundaries or the uncertainty of genres. Perhaps what De Mol only did was uncover the voyeuristic vein that runs through all human societies, as well as the guilty pleasure of having a say in the lives of people whom, up until a few weeks ago, you wouldn't even have acknowledged if you passed them on the street.

Jesuit guidelines on political crisis

COMMENTARY

Roberto C. Yap, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

(Conclusion)

FR. DANIEL PATRICK L. HUANG, S.J., PROVINcial Superior of Jesuits in the Philippines, recently endorsed the "Guidelines in a Time of Confusion and Crisis," produced by the Province Commission on the Social Apostolate. These guidelines, produced after much discussion and consultation, are an attempt to provide Christian moral reflection on our present national situation of political crisis and confusion.

Father Huang asked that these guidelines be read, reflected and prayed upon, and made the subject of serious discernment, toward action, by individuals, communities and institutions. He recognizes that not all will agree with what is presented in the guidelines: some will judge that they go "too far"; others will doubtless think they do not go "far enough." But he believes that these guidelines offer sound directions to help us "read" our present situation and to orient us in our common search for authentic solutions to the grave problems of our country today. These guidelines are not presented as positions that all are compelled to accept and adhere to. If some, in conscience, differ with the positions taken, Father Huang asked that dissent be presented with civility and intelligence, as input for the continuing task of communal discernment toward that which will serve the true good of our country.

He exhorted Jesuits and their lay partners to be united in prayer and deep concern for our country and our people. His prayer is that the Lord shows us the way toward the truth, freedom and justice that our people yearn for. And that God bless us with courage and hope.

These guidelines are being shared with others who may be seeking direction and guidance in our troubled times. The first seven guidelines were published yesterday, and the last two follow.

8. While there may be reasons to consider amending the Constitution for the sake of greater responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of our people, Charter change as a diversionary tactic in times of political conflict, or as a means of perpetuating elite democracy, should be rejected. Thus, the rush to change the Constitution, especially through a constituent assembly, should be resisted. Furthermore, while major constitutional changes such as parliamentarism and federalism may seem to have merit, their concrete realization and implications should be carefully studied and discussed, rather than prematurely decided upon.

9. There may be no clear solutions or exit strategies to our present state. But our past history, especially during the martial law years, reminds us that we can continue being vigilant and work for truth and justice even when the alternatives are not clear. Thus, the following courses of action should be pursued:

a. Our educational institutions, parishes and other institutions should become centers for conscientization. Discernment groups must be organized to combat apathy, to heighten awareness and involvement and to prepare for future action. We echo the call of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in the statement of 10 July 2005, to "urge our people in our parish and religious communities, our religious organizations and movements, our Basic Ecclesial Communities to come and pray together, reason, decide and act together always to the end that the will of God prevail in the political order."

b. Conscientization that leads to organizing and reorganizing base groups and forming community or sectoral organizations should be given priority. Such groups can also be invited to deal with local problems, to engage local government and to do network-building with other sympathetic groups.

c. These and other groups should be mobilized toward vigilance and monitoring:

- First, the continued effectiveness of government programs for the poor.
- Second, appointment to public offices made by the President.
- Third, acts of apparent retribution against those who are critical of the government and the President.
- Fourth, the actual use of pork barrel by legislators and their possible abuse of it for themselves.
- Fifth, the preparations for forthcoming electoral exercises, through advocacy for automation, and the continuing task of voters' education.
- Sixth, the use of funds that will be made available in the event of a peace agreement in Mindanao.

d. Deeper study and reflection on institutional alternatives (such as parliamentarism, federalism, etc.) should be conducted at various levels, from university think tanks to grass-roots groups.

These guidelines were prepared by the Society of Jesus Philippine Province Commission on the Social Apostolate whose members are: Albert E. Alejo, S.J., Miguel B. Lambino, S.J., Jose Cecilio J. Magadia, S.J., Antonio P. Moreno, S.J., Karel S. San Juan, S.J., Primitivo E. Viray, S.J., Peter W. Walpole, S.J. and Roberto C. Yap, S.J. (Chair).

Teachers Day observed but not celebrated

LAST WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5, FILipino teachers joined the observance of World Teachers Day. I deliberately used the word "observance," not "celebration." For do Filipino teachers have reasons to celebrate Teachers Day? How could teachers feel good and happy while they are beset with problems, especially those that concern their economic welfare?

Indeed, for how long will the overworked but underpaid teachers suffer? Since we started the teachers' struggle for justice in the late '60s and early '70s, the problems confronting us remain the same.

Foremost among these problems is the pay below the so-called poverty line. According to the National Economic and Development Authority itself, for a teacher to live a decent life, he/she must get a least P16,500 a month. Sadly, the gross salary of a Teacher I at present is a meager P9,939.

Add to this the teachers' plight in the non-payment of the proper cost of living allowance as mandated by Section 18 of Republic Act 4670 (Magna Carta for Public School Teachers), questionable deductions from their salaries by the GSIS and some private lending agencies, compulsory service during elections, the assigning of teachers to numerous programs and projects that are alien to their primary task of teaching, and the frequent innovations in the educational system which only result in confusion and frustration among teachers, as well as schoolchildren and their parents.

Also, there are the perennial problems of lack of books and other instructional support materials, dearth of chairs, desks, tables and other facilities, and overcrowded classrooms.

The government's standard reply whenever teachers clamor for just compensation is lack of funds. But there are intelligence funds for the Office of the President. Going by what a concerned lawmaker (he is one of the few truly concerned with the teachers' welfare) said during a meeting in Congress, P46 billion is earmarked for "intelligence." And mind you, my dear Filipino taxpayers, intelligence funds are not subject to audit and accounting!

We strongly urge the government to exert serious efforts to curb graft and corruption which, according to a UP study, eats up 25 percent of the annual budget. Imagine the huge amount that can be allocated for upgrading the teachers' salary if only the problem of graft and corruption can be solved.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Besides, recovered Marcos wealth and the local school board's funds in the highly urbanized cities can be sources of shared funds for schools. There are other ways the government can tap other sources of education funds if only this administration were really sincere and determined to alleviate the teachers' plight.

—EUSEBIO S. SAN DIEGO,
education supervisor
of values education
and alternative learning system,
Division of City Schools,
Misamis Street, Sto. Cristo,
Bago Bantay, Quezon City

'Prayer rally' was calibrated to instigate violent response

THIS IS A REACTION TO STATEments attributed to the opposition and religious leaders "condemning" the dispersal of the Oct. 14 "prayer rally" at Mendiola.

For all intents and purposes, that "prayer rally" was an opposition-led mass action calling for the overthrow of a duly constituted government. In my view, it was not in any way religious. It was a purely political action disguised as a religious activity.

It was not "an attack on free speech" but a provoked response from the authorities. Since the first week of October 2005, there were daily rallies at Mendiola and, each time, the demonstrators tried to break through the phalanx of civil disturbance teams assigned in the area. The policemen never initiated the attack in all these demonstrations and Friday's rally was no different.

To claim that it was a repeat of what happened in September 1984 was too much. With due respect to Bishop Julio Labayen, I too was there during that vigil at Mendiola. If he was really there, he should know that the political situation then was different from the one prevailing now. We fought a dictatorship then. Now, he is fighting for the return of the vestiges of two regimes that were ousted by the people. He is fighting side by side with people and groups with vested interests and political motives.

An attack on religion? Labayen said that the rally "was a patriotic manifestation of our concern for our country." The friars and clerico-fascists of long ago also claimed the same thing, and history shows what they did to our country and the Filipino people.

—LEONARDO KIRK I. GALANZA,
lkirkgalanza@yahoo.com

The sins of the fathers

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE INQUIRER EDItorial on a matter involving De La Salle University and the UAAP. (PDI, 10/14/05) Unfortunately, the editorial also casts aspersions on the youth of today. As a proud member of today's youth, it disappoints me that we are the ones reprimanded by the editorial:

"There will be students from various schools who will be tempted to gloat over DLSU's woes, but those woes are not unique. And what concerns us here is not what the problems of DLSU say about the school, though the intense revulsion to both Salgado's hot-headedness and Pumaren's flippancy, expressed by the school's alumni and administration speaks highly of the school; rather, it is what the problems say about the youth.

"Not being new, the problems indicate the age-old temptation to undertake shortcuts and engage in deceit, in the quest for glory and recognition. The reaction of DLSU, institutions such as the UAAP, and the administrations of other schools faced by similar instances of dishonorable conduct, points to the importance of institutions being the mechanism for upholding true sportsmanship."

As my friend said in reaction to this: "Wow. *Bilib talaga ako sa* PR *ng* DLSU (I'm awed by DLSU's PR). They got the INQUIRER to publish a positive editorial about them and pin the blame on the poor students. We're supposed to believe that this kid who didn't even pass the PEP exam can cook up a scheme to forge documents and elude detection by DLSU all by himself? The problems don't point to the youth; they point to the pathetic adults among the alumni—and I'm not just talking of La Sallites here—who use them."

The thing I want to point out here is that the adults are to blame in this kind of incident more than the youth. Does the INQUIRER believe that the DLSU officials had no hand whatsoever in the erring student's admission to the school and to the team despite ineligibility? Do you expect us to believe that Franz Pumaren's underhanded recruitment methods are not involved in this? And who pressures these youth more to win the game "at all costs"? The alumni! The elders who pay good money to keep the game alive. The youth are in many ways just pawns to these evil games the adults play.

If we want youth of stronger character to emerge in this country, adults, school officials, coaches, team managers and alumni must set better examples for us to follow.

—CAROLINE SORIANO,
GreatBastet@yahoo.com

Very strange 'leaks' at the White House

THERE IS MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE IN the Venable and Aragoncillo cases. Secretary-on-leave Norberto Gonzales probably knew that the information on Venable LLP and on the confidential White House reports allegedly pilfered by Filipino-American FBI agent Leandro Aragoncillo could actually be what they call in intelligence parlance "controlled leaks." For how could one explain a copy of the Venable contract suddenly finding its way into the hands of Rep. Rolex Suplico and the documents "pilfered" by Aragoncillo into the hands of opposition personalities?

Surely, the US government was sensible enough not to release the information to administration people as this would somehow constitute an "institutional blackmail" as in "we have the goods on you so you better be on your toes." Thus, it was only proper that the information be given to opposition politicians to make it appear that the US government had nothing to do with the "stolen information."

So what is now happening instead is an "indirect blackmail" via the opposition route. If the administration fails to recognize the obvious orchestration, then its demise will happen sooner than later.

The Bush administration is simply telling President Macapagal-Arroyo to shape up otherwise it will be forced to "directly" interfere to pave the way for her immediate downfall. No matter what we say, the Americans have so much at stake should this country go down the drain.

Gonzales probably knows this but will not oblige the senators with answers to their questions because his doing so will embarrass the President more than what the Garci tapes, the fertilizer scam and NorthRail contract, combined, could. There is more to come, as a keen reader would hazard. Who is to benefit should this happen? I have an intelligent guess but I would rather keep it to myself.

—LITO DAVID,
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Cops' checkpoints choke rally routes

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—POLICE SEARCHES of vehicles and the establishment of checkpoints in at least five gates of the North Luzon Expressway on Thursday night stalled traffic and delayed travel, reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed.

The queue of vehicles spanned 2 km before the NLEx's San Fernando exit in Barangay Dolores at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday. By that time, some 300 policemen were seen stationed at the exit.

While most policemen stood in formation, 50 of them boarded buses and checked on commuters and their cargo. Trucks and private vehicles were not spared as their compartments were also inspected.

"It's surprising that policemen hopped onto buses now to prevent crimes. It is so obvious that they're only doing this whenever there are announced rallies in Manila," Malou Garbes, a businesswoman, said in a text message.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Central Luzon police director, said the checkpoints and searches were "anti-criminality measures."

According to him, no untoward incident was reported "except for the traffic jam."

The protest caravan of some 2,000 Bagong Alyansang Makabayan members from Central Luzon reached Metro Manila at 12:08 a.m. Friday, according to Roman Polintan, Bayan regional chair.

"We went through a difficult obstacle course. At every way, the police looked for violations when there was really none," Polintan said.

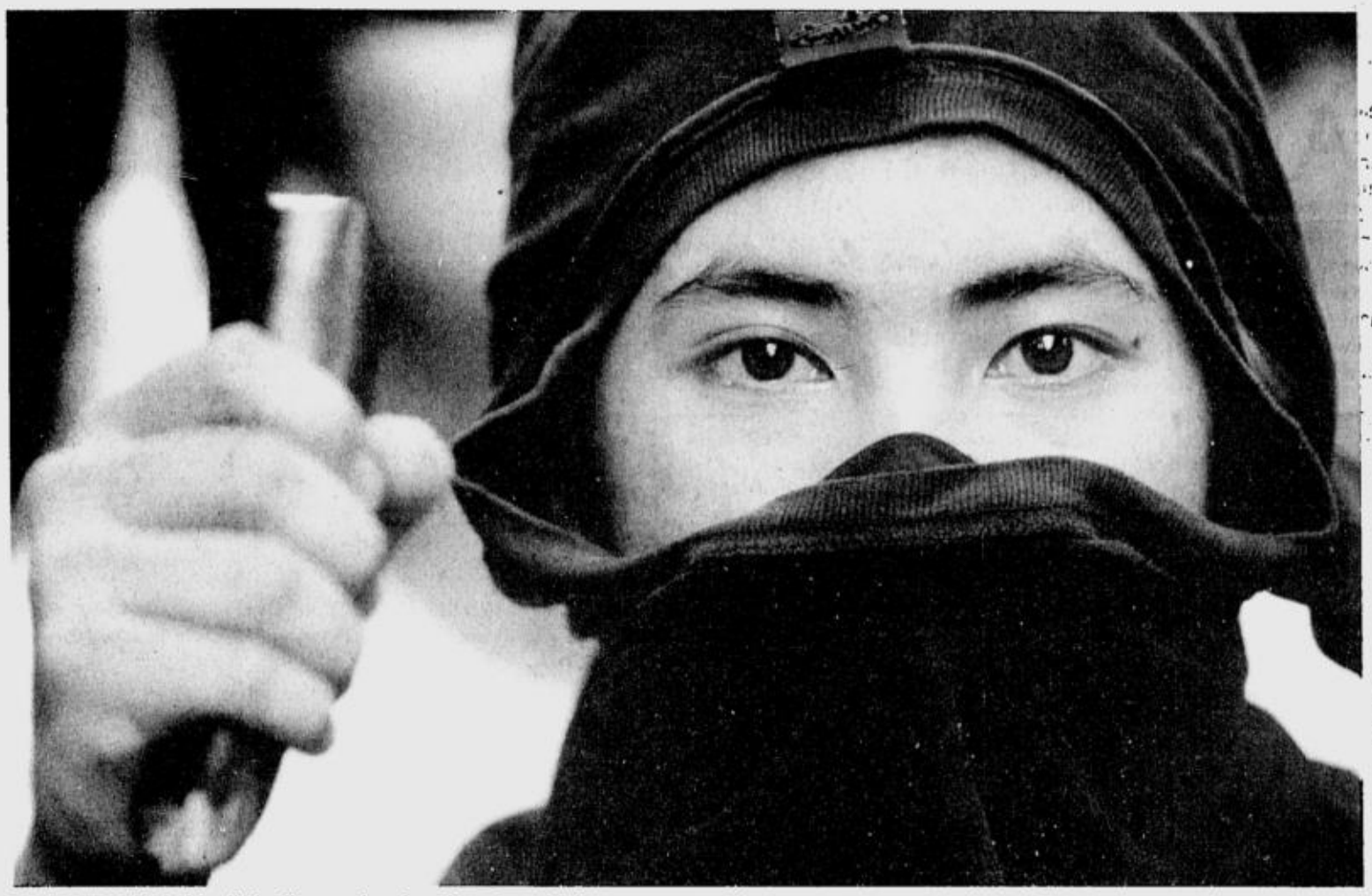
The Bayan Aurora contingent took 36 hours before reaching Cabiao town in Nueva Ecija. It hurdled at least 10 police and Army checkpoints, it was learned.

In Baguio City, members of the party-list group Gabriela marched on Session Road on Friday carrying a 10-meter long quilt blanket, which they stitched together to describe the Filipino women's grievances against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Alternately criticizing Ms Arroyo's expanded value added tax on fuel and power, and her globalization policies that they said endanger Benguet's vegetable market, the participants displayed the quilt in downtown Baguio as they culminated the Gabriela's three-day regional conference in the city.

The quilt is composed of 41 pieces of cloth, each containing messages about Ms Arroyo, the agriculture, the World Trade Organization and gay rights. Most of the conference participants were farmers.

The Baguio City police sent out police officers to manage traffic, but they allowed the Gabriela members to continue their rally despite the absence of a permit from Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



A PROTESTER in Manila is all geared up for a long day of rally. REM ZAMORA/PDI PHOTO

Visayas protesters mark 'foodless day,' demand resignation of Gloria

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—PROTESTERS IN KEY CITIES IN the Visayas yesterday staged rallies to mark "World Foodless Day" and press for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Unlike in Metro Manila, however, protesters were able to freely march the streets and even came near to the alternate seat of power in the south, the Malacañang sa Sugbo, located along the port area here, without getting dispersed or blasted with water cannons.

About 300 to 400 farmers, fishermen and members of militant organizations marched from Fuente Osmeña Boulevard to the Malacañang sa Sugbo at 1:30 p.m. while chanting their demand for President Arroyo's ouster.

At exactly 3 p.m., they arrived at M.J. Cuenco Avenue, across the main gate of Malacañang sa Sugbo, but their path was blocked by over 100 anti-riot policemen.

In Western Visayas, more than 600 protesters yesterday joined rallies in Iloilo, Aklan and Capiz to mark "World Foodless Day" and to press for the ouster of Ms Arroyo.

In Iloilo City, around 400 mainly peasant protesters led by the Paghugpong sang mga Mangunguma sa Panay kag Guimaras (Pamanggas) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) assembled in front of the St. Clement's Church in La Paz District before marching to the Iloilo provincial capitol where a rally was held.

Around 150 protesters, led by Bayan and the farmers group Panguma, joined a rally at Crossing Banga in the capital town of Kalibo in Aklan.

In Roxas City in Capiz, around 70 protesters led by Bayan and the Kahublagan sang Mangunguma sa Capiz displayed placards and streamers calling for the ouster of Ms Arroyo in a picket at the Roxas City Bandstand.

Coal plant operator denies reports it emits toxic substances in town

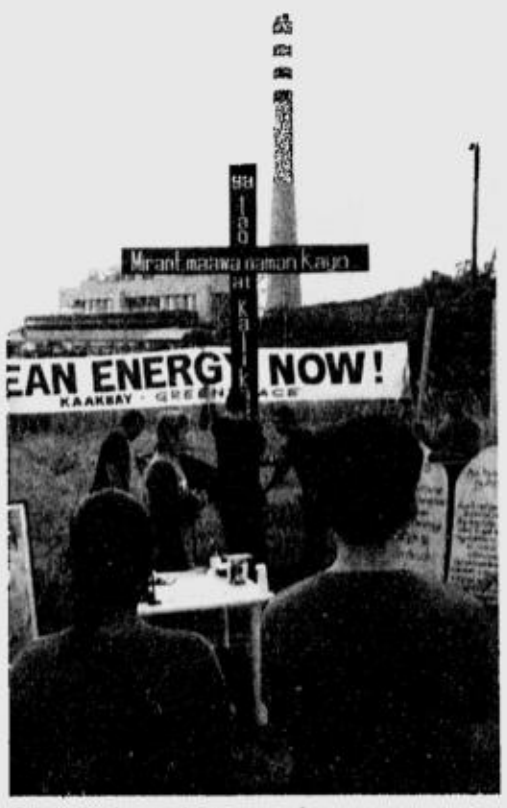
By Blanche Rivera
in Manila
and Delfin Mallari
PDI S. Luzon Bureau

THE OPERATOR OF the 735-megawatt coal fired power plant in Pagbilao, Quezon yesterday insisted that it was operating well within local and international standards for environmental safety.

Mirant Phils. said all its power plants, including the one in Pagbilao, even exceeded the requirements of "all pertinent environment laws" including the Philippine Clean Air Act, and the standards set by the World Bank and US Environment Protection Agency.

"We have gone beyond compliance to ensure that there will be no adverse effects to the environment and to public health in the course of our operations," the company said in a statement released yesterday.

Mirant public affairs manager Greggy Romualdez said even the mercury content of samples from its ash pond in Pagbilao was only .0003 mg/kg, or way below the 10mg/kg international standard set for mercury in ash from coal-fired plants.



COAL is the problem, say these protesters who Mass in front of the Mirant gate in Pagbilao. AFP

Greenpeace energy campaigner for southeast Asia Red Constantino, however, said the small amount being brandished by Mirant would be huge if multiplied with 2.6 million metric tons of coal generated by the Pagbilao plant a year.

The company did not have available data on arsenic, chromium and lead in the ash samples, which Greenpeace said were present in samples from all Mirant plants in the country.

Tests done by the Institute for Pure and Applied Chemistry at the Ateneo de Manila University on sample ash from the Pagbilao plant showed that it contained .02 ug/g of mercury, 13 ug/g of arsenic, 14 ug/g of chromium and 5.60 ug/g of lead.

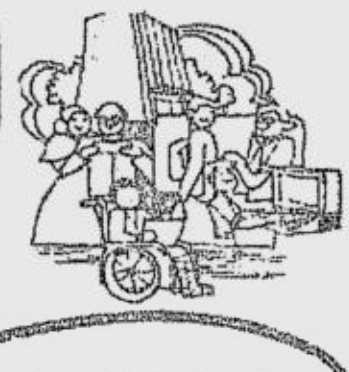
"Even cars emit toxic substances. Coal is intrinsically dirty, but it does not pose any risk if burned with the right technology ...," Romualdez said in a phone interview.

He said ash from the burning of coal in the plant were stored in a "very, very secure facility" that has clay and synthetic liners.

IKAW AT ANG SSS

Questions & Answers on Social Security

Sickness Benefit



What is the sickness benefit?

The sickness benefit is a daily cash allowance paid for the number of days a member is unable to work due to sickness or injury.

How does an SSS member qualify for the sickness benefit?

A member is qualified to avail of this benefit if:
1. unable to work due to sickness or injury and confined either in a hospital or at home for at least four days;
2. at least three months of contributions within the 12-month period immediately before the semester of sickness has been paid;
3. all company sick leaves with pay for the current year has been used up; and
4. the employer has been notified or, if a separated, voluntary or a self-employed member, the SSS directly.

How much sickness benefit is a member entitled to receive?

The amount of a member's sickness benefit per day is equivalent to ninety per cent (90%) of his average daily salary credit.

How many days in a year can a member avail of the sickness benefit?

A member can be granted sickness benefit for a maximum of 120 days in one calendar year. Any unused portion of the allowable 120 days sickness benefit cannot be carried forward and added to the total number of allowed compensable days for the following year.

The sickness benefit shall not be paid for more than 240 days on account of the same illness. If the sickness or injury still persists after 240 days, the claim will be considered a disability claim.

Who should an employee notify regarding the sickness or injury?

A member should notify the employer within five (5) calendar days after the start of sickness or injury. The employer, in turn, must notify the SSS of the confinement within (5) calendar days after receipt of the notification from the employee member. The unemployed, self-employed o voluntarily-paying member should notify the SSS directly within five (5) calendar days after the start of confinement. Failure to observe the rule on notification within the prescribed period will result to reduction of the benefit or denial of the claim.

How would an employed member be paid the sickness benefit?

The payment of the daily sickness allowance is advanced by the employer every regular payday. The SSS will then reimburse the employer of the amount legally advanced upon receipt of satisfactory proof of such payment and legality thereof. The sickness benefit will be paid directly by the SSS to the unemployed, self-employed or voluntary member.

What is the prescribed period in filing a claim for sickness benefit of a member confined in a hospital?

For hospital confinement, the claim for benefit must be filed within one (1) year from the last day of confinement from the hospital. For home confinement, the claim for reimbursement by the employer must be filed within one (1) year from the start of illness Failure to file the claim within the prescribed period will result to denial of the claim.

What forms are needed in filing for sickness benefit?

1. *For the employed member* -
   a. SSS Form CLD-9N (Sickness Notification).
   For the employer -
   b. SSS Form B-304 (Sickness Benefit Reimbursement Application).
2. *For the unemployed/self-employed/voluntary member* -
   a. SSS Form CLD-9A (Sickness Benefit Application Form For Unemployed/Self-employed/Voluntary Members)
   b. SSS Form MMD-102 (Medical Certificate)
3. Other documents:
   a. *For unemployed members* -
   - certification from last employer showing the effective date of separation from employment or notice of the company's closure/strike or certification from the Department of Labor and Employment that the employee or employer has a pending labor case
   - certification that no advance payment was granted, if the date of separation from employment is within the confinement period being applied for.
4. Presentation of the SS Digitized ID/SSS Form E-6 (acknowledgement stub) with 2 valid IDs, one of which with recent photo. To ensure receipt of benefits by members, authorized company representatives who file sickness benefit claims shall present the members' SS digitized ID or E-6 (acknowledgement stub) with two valid IDs (at least one with photo). This requirement is in addition to the presentation by the company representative of his SS digitized ID and blue card.

Where does the member file the claim for sickness benefit?

For the employed member - claims may be filed at the nearest SSS office. However, processing will be done at the branch where the employer and employee records are based.

For the separated/voluntary/self-employed member - claims may be filed at the SSS office nearest the member's residence. However, processing will be done at the branch where the record is based.

For more information visit the SSS office nearest you or call 924-3465 or 435-9835 or e-mail at member_relations@sss.gov.ph

Kabalikat mo sa buhay!

Fax to: 924-3465 or 435-9835 or Mail to: Member Relations Dept., Social Security System, East Avenue, Quezon City

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SSS 2003-20

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Korean lovers find cozy nest in Leyte

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

AS ROMANTIC KOREAN *telenovelas* continue to invade Filipino homes, real life Korean lovers are slowly making the Philippines a favorite place for their honeymoon.

A number of Korean couples have chosen the Leyte Park Hotel and Resort as the romantic place to celebrate their marriage, according to Wilson Chan, president and chief executive officer of the resort hotel.

Korean couples would stay at pool villas that overlook a tranquil sea and a mighty mountain—a place where time seems to move slowly.

When foreign tourists became scarce because of the security problem in Mindanao, the Leyte Park Hotel and Resort reached out to other foreign tourists looking for a place for their holidays. The hotel was able to forge a tie-up with a Korean travel agency specializing on newlyweds in search of a romantic place for their honeymoon.

"While the arrival of European, Japanese and Taiwanese tourists has been greatly reduced ... it is being compensated by the substantial increase in the arrival of South Korean tourists," Chan said.

The Koreans on honeymoon come in two seasons: March to June and September up to December.

Starting last March, the resort had its first 30 newlywed couples from South Korea. At present, the hotel expected more than 40 Korean couples that started coming in mid-September, Chan said.

One of their come-ons are the villas that face the sea, have an exclusive swimming pool whose water seems to flow from the sea below. The pool, called "infinity pool," faces San Pedro Bay in Leyte and Mt. Danglay in nearby Samar.

ONE OF the villas at the Leyte Park Hotel and Resort in Tacloban City where Korean newlyweds stay. VEN LABRO

Royal treatment

Chan said that when Koreans marry they are usually entitled to a one-week vacation from their work, and those who stayed at Leyte Park Hotel and Resort for their honeymoon spent a minimum of two nights and three days up to a maximum of four nights and five days of vacation.

Chan said they treat their guests like dignitaries or members of a royalty.

When Korean couples arrive at the Tacloban airport, some hotel workers are there to welcome them. Then they are whisked to a VIP room where they can take coffee or tea and have hot towels. In their trip from the airport to the hotel, a pair of motorcycles escort the couples' cars.

As they enter the hotel premises, the guests will again see streamers welcoming them. At the lobby smiling hotel staff welcome them while a rondalla plays music for them. After checking in they will be accompanied to their villa by their exclusive butler who is the only other person allowed into their villa during their stay, to clean and do other tasks.

Easy to please

The airport experience excites the visitors because in Korea, an industrialized country, passengers no longer walk on the tarmac because they use the tubes, he said. Streamers welcoming ordinary people are also not allowed there.

Chan said they have no food problems with the Korean visitors for they prepare special meals for the guests but these are native dishes and Chinese cuisine.

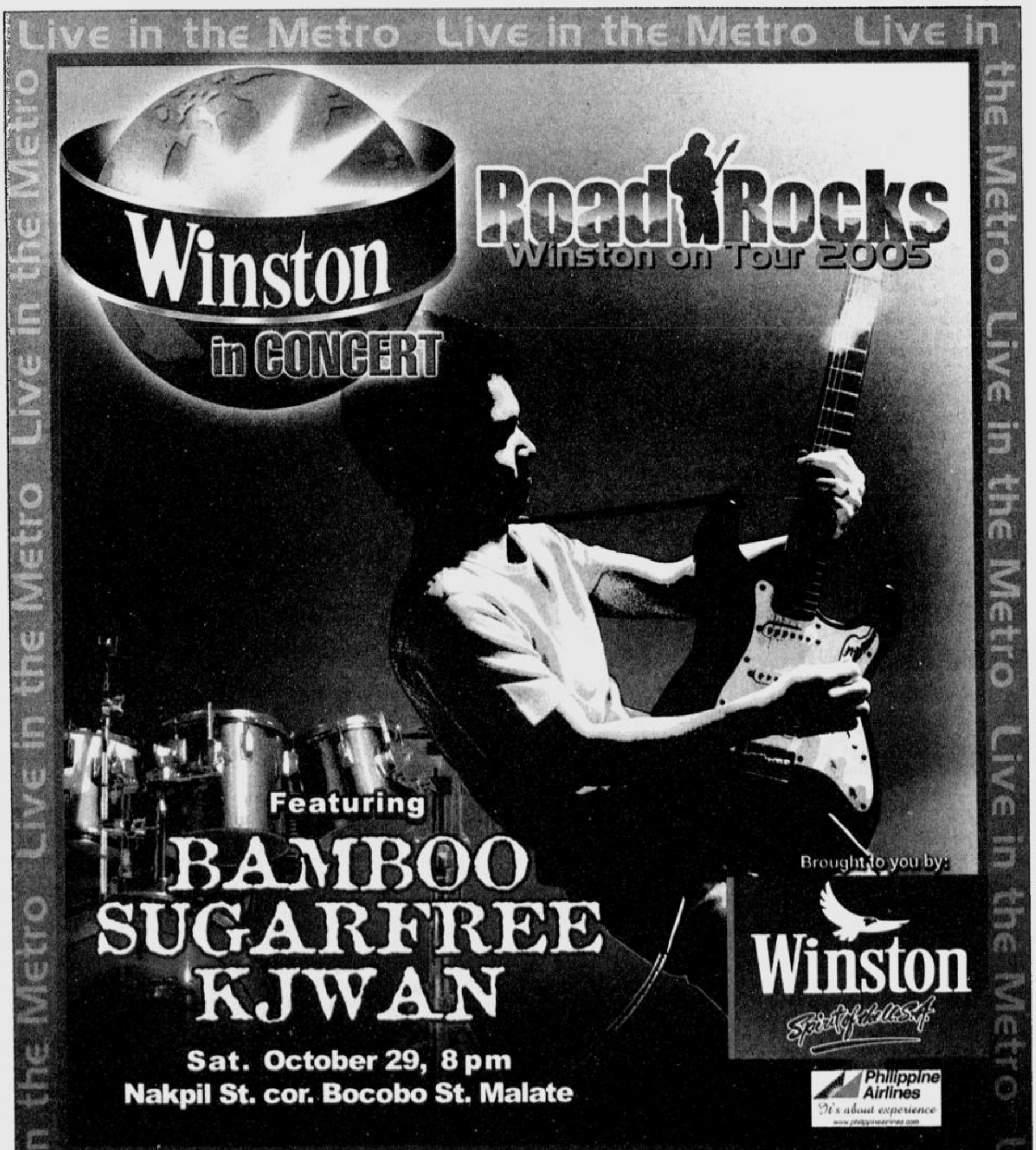
"Instead of making Korean beef barbecue they'll have beef cooked in coconut milk," he said, "and to our surprise many of them liked our cooking."

Also included in the package are fishing and island hopping as well as swimming, scuba diving and kayaking lessons in a marine park at nearby Marabut town in Samar that the hotel owns.

Dinner is served at the poolside of the villa with the pool dressed up with floating candles. The jacuzzi inside is likewise filled with sweet smelling flower petals.

Chan agreed that unlike other foreign tourists, Koreans are not so sensitive to bad news in the Philippines. He lamented, however, that some of his guests have complained that there is no connecting flight in Manila for the trip to Tacloban that they have to stay a day in Manila, which is not included in their itinerary.

But the Korean lovers soon come back to Leyte and Samar for some unforgettable and romance-filled moments.



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Iloilo teacher lives on hope

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

NELIA RAMOS HAS BEEN teaching English in the past 30 years at the Iloilo National High School and so, when she felt pain on her left thigh in June last year after bumping on the edge of a table, she dismissed it as part of the risks of being a teacher.

When a lump the size of a cauliflower appeared in the painful area in September 2004, the 58-year-old teacher dismissed it again, but her fellow teachers brought her to two local hospitals to get a diagnosis.

It was only in Feb. 24 this year, after a series of tests that Dr. Daniel Selorio of the West Visayas State University Hospital diagnosed Ramos as having Pleomorphic liposarcoma on her left thigh.

Nelia said her doctors explained that Pleomorphic liposarcoma is a cancer of a connective or supportive tissue with the pleomorphic type as the most aggressive with a relentless history of recurrences.

Nelia is the 14th patient in the Philippines to be diagnosed with the rare type of cancer in the last 10 years, according to the findings of Dr. Edward Wang of the Philippine General Hospital.

Last March 19, Dr. Wang operated on Nelia's left thigh at the WVSU Hospital for four hours because he said in an e-mail that the infected leg had to be removed to prevent the tumor's spread and recurrence.

Prayer power

Now, without a left leg, Nelia is faced with the possibility of the cancer recurring. Dr. Wang said the cancer has 82 percent chance of recurrence and recommended chemotherapy.

From the original chemotherapy cost of P53,000 per session, her oncologist Dr. Anita Jesena, lowered the price to P29,395 because Nelia's weight of 49 kilos would not make her receptive to stronger chemotherapy.

Her doctors explained that her stage 4 cancer needed six chemotherapy sessions, the price of which was way beyond her means as a retirable teacher supporting one of two children and one grandchild.

Nelia's husband Faustino, 67, a retired employee, takes care of his wife and their grandchild at their home in Barangay Bakhaw, Mandurriao District.

Whatever savings her family had are depleted because of the high cost of medicine and day-to-day sustenance, said Nelia.

The Ramos couple goes to Dr. Romeo F. Baron, who specializes in family medicine, alternative medicine and nutritional therapy with the hope that the doctor would be able to help cure Nelia's cancer.

Faustino said the daily expenses for Nelia's alternative medicine ranges from P564 and reaches P2,000 if other non-alternative medicines are included.

The Ramos couple said it would depend on Dr. Baron's diagnosis if her body would be capable of surviving the chemotherapy sessions, a decision that would be decided on this month.

"I rely on God for everything, I have surrendered all to him," said Nelia.

(Nelia Ramos can be contacted at 0918-6033873 and landline (033) 321-3293)

Car theft, hijack cases on the rise

By DJ Yap

IN THE EARLY EVENING OF OCT. 16, a young doctor was having the air gauge of his sports utility vehicle checked at a gasoline station along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City when two armed men approached him. "We need your car," they said simply, a .45 caliber pistol trained at him. The doctor resisted, prompting one of the men to shoot him in the leg. As they boarded his Ford Everest, the victim tried to fight them off. Irked, the men shot him thrice in the chest. The doctor is now fighting for his life in the intensive care unit of the East Avenue Medical Center. The suspects remain at large.

Such stories often make the rounds in Quezon City, long reputed to be the country's "Car Theft Capital." The city's vast land area and the sheer volume of cars and parking spaces provide an opportunity for carjackers to strike. This month, the anti-carnapping (Ancar) unit of the Quezon City Police District recorded 12 forcible car robberies or "carjackings," compared to just five "parked" car thefts. The figures are official, meaning only those incidents that were reported to the police, Ancar unit chief PSupt. Ceasar Tannagan said. What is strange about the October figures is that traditionally, parked car thefts have always outnumbered forcible ones, he said.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been almost 300 carnapping incidents in Quezon City. Parked car thefts accounted for 226 of the cases, while forcible carnappings numbered only 70, according to Ancar statistics. For all other months except October, there were more parked car thefts than car hijacking cases, Tannagan said.

By conventional wisdom, parked car thieves operate with far less danger involved than carjackers, who risk being recognized or entangled in a fight with their victims, said QCPD deputy director for operations Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao. But the rise in forcible car thefts only show that carjackers have been able to minimize those risks. And they are prepared to take on such risks largely because of the rewards involved, said Pagdilao.

Luxury car models sold whole or by part ("chop-chop") make for a lucrative business, he said. Also, there was always the possibility of getting something extra, for instance, the valuables inside one's car.

Police used to think that the same band of criminals was responsible for the series of carjacking incidents along the streets of Quezon City. However, Tannagan said as many as two or three car theft gangs could be prowling the city, as shown by their varying modus operandi.

One such modus operandi was experienced by a businessman who was driving his luxury car along Commonwealth Avenue when a big, white car cut him. Four armed men got out and introduced themselves as policemen. They aimed an Armalite rifle at him, escorted him to their car, and drove him to an unlit tunnel where they took his wallet, watch, and ATM and credit cards. They asked for his PIN numbers, all the while keeping his head bowed, kicking his back, or pricking him with a knife. Another group of armed carjackers work in pairs or threes but do not drive their own cars. They wait for a chance to "ambush" their victim and speed off using the stolen vehicle. Carjackers usually strike during "unholy hours" between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m., Tannagan said. Their favorite haunts are Quezon Avenue, Panay Avenue, Timog Avenue, Tandang Sora Avenue, Congressional Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue, he added. Victims often described the carjackers as between 30-45 years old and "military-looking." Drivers can keep carjackers away by avoiding unlit roads or by traveling in groups, Pagdilao said.

A PNP lab technician examines a recovered vehicle stolen by car thieves. EDWIN BACASMAS

METROBRIEFS

Pay up, or else...

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority still owes the Rodriguez, Rizal government about P183 million for the use of the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility. Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo said he would raise the garbage fee from P600 to P800 per ton of trash, or close down the facility altogether. The dump receives the bulk of garbage from Metro Manila. The closure could be avoided if the MMDA agrees to his proposed rate increase, said Cuerpo. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

CWC Xmas bazaar

THE CASA Y Jardin Christmas bazaar of the Catholic Women's Club (CWC) will be held tomorrow at the Hotel Intercontinental from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. A feature unique to the bazaar is the sale of limited blue and white editions of Mother and Child porcelain plates. Proceeds of the bazaar will go to the CWC's more than 80 charities.

Biotech journalism awards

WINNERS of the first Gawad Galing awards for Biotech Journalism will be named on Oct. 24, at 3 p.m. at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Gawad Galing for Biotech Journalism is being spearheaded by the Biotechnology for Life Media and Advocacy Resource Center (BMARC) to help motivate and sustain the national media's interest in biotech reporting.

Gregoria Ferrer, 74

Gregoria Omila Ferrer, a nurse of the Clinica Arcellano in Sta. Cruz, Manila, died Tuesday at the age of 74. She is survived by her husband Vicente, children Viveca Glorianne and Gregory Vincent, brother Jesus, and sister-in-law Nora. Her body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz, Aranета Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will take place at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Don't blame Jamby's bodyguard

ON TARGET *Ramon Tulfo*

I ADMIRE THE APOSTOLIC work of Fr. Robert Reyes when he works for the poor among his flock and runs to dramatize his protest against what he perceives to be an injustice committed against the citizenry. No other priest can match his style. But sometimes he goes beyond bounds. He cheapens the priesthood with his antics.

In the front-page photo of yesterday's INQUIRER, Reyes was seen blessing with holy water a phalanx of anti-riot policewomen guarding the road to Malacañang. The impression in that picture is that the good priest was exorcising the demons from the policewomen who were laughing. Father Reyes made a comedy of a sacred Catholic rite.

In another incident, Reyes blessed the lobby of the Batasang Pambansa building, home to the House of the Representatives, to exorcise the demons out of the congressmen and women who would vote not to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo. I was never taught in the Catholic schools where I studied that holy water would be used by a priest on people who held views contrary to his.

* * *

There's a saying that when elephants fight, the ant gets trampled upon. The collateral damage in the fight between Sen. Jamby Madrigal and the Philippine National Police (PNP) is PO3 Napoleon Simundo, the senator's bodyguard.

Simundo is in hot water for bringing his gun to the rally site. His superiors at the PNP Police Security and Protection Office say bringing a gun to a rally is illegal. But can you blame Simundo, who's officially assigned to the senator, for bringing the gun meant to protect his ward? His only fault is that he was clumsy because the gun fell off his waistband when anti-riot policemen blasted the marchers, that included Madrigal and Father Reyes, with water cannon. Simundo's picking the gun up and tucking it back in his waistband was caught on camera by intelligence agents.

The PNP at first said that some agitators and provocateurs had penetrated the march rally, called a procession by its participants, because one of them was carrying a gun.

But even after Madrigal came out saying that the gun was her bodyguard's, the PNP still wants Simundo held to account for bringing a gun to a rally. Please don't blame Simundo, even if he's gauche. His being at the rally wasn't his fault, but his ward's, the senator. He was just doing his job.

* * *

On the Metro page (A 23) of yesterday's INQUIRER, two uniformed cops were featured riding tandem on a motorcycle. One of them was an inspector as could be seen from his shoulder board. The two were not wearing helmet, a must for people riding motor bikes. It's illegal not to have the headgear while on a motorcycle. The cops told the INQUIRER lensman they were not wearing helmets "because we are policemen." "Because I am a policeman" is the reason given by cops for abusing their authority.

"I'm a cop" is the stock answer a drunken officer (drunk with power, that is) usually gives an innocent citizen whom he beats up without rhyme or reason.

These men became cops so they would pull rank over ordinary citizens like you and me.

MANILA VISITORS
Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna (left) welcomes visiting Mayor Ong Se Hang (third from right) of Fujian, China, and his group during their courtesy call at City Hall recently.

Michael Ray pleads not guilty in US espionage case

NEWARK, N.J.—FORMER POLICE officer Michael Ray Aquino pleaded not guilty on Thursday to charges that he conspired with a former aide to US Vice President Dick Cheney to pass classified documents to Philippine officials.

Aquino, 39, is charged with conspiracy and acting as an unregistered foreign agent in a New Jersey court. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

The documents, including assessments of politicians, were reportedly used by opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo to try to unseat her.

Lawyers for both sides agree that Aquino, now a nursing student in New York, received documents from Leandro Aragoncillo, 46.

Aragoncillo has been in plea negotiations, which leaves the possibility that Aquino could face the charges alone.

Aquino's lawyer, Mark Berman, said on Thursday that Aquino, who rejected a plea deal, had known Aragoncillo for about a year.

Aragoncillo, who started working at the White House in the vice president's office in 1999 under Al Gore and continued to work there for nearly three years, was arrested on espionage charges last month. He is accused of downloading classified reports from an FBI computer and sending them to opposition figures.

Berman added that the documents Aquino received from Aragoncillo were not marked as classified.

"Mr. Aquino is innocent. His case is going to go to trial," Berman said.

Additional charges

Prosecutor Karl Buch told US District Judge William Walls he expected to file additional charges against Aquino.

He asked Walls for a nine-month adjournment because of the complexity of the case, the continuing investigation and the sensitivity of the classified evidence.

The judge did not rule on the request on Thursday and ordered both sides to return to court on Jan. 17 for a status conference. No trial date was set.

"We are pleased the judge did not rubber-stamp that request," Berman said.

Berman said Aquino supported opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who lost last year's election to Ms Arroyo. Lacson has acknowledged receiving information from Aquino.

COURTROOM SKETCH of Michael Ray Aquino as he stands before US District Judge William Wall (right) during his arraignment hearing at the Federal Courthouse in Newark, New Jersey on Thursday. REUTERS

Excerpts from the FBI documents have been published in the Philippine press, including one that said, "Arroyo has always exhibited paranoia and the need to control every aspect of the Philippine economy and politics."

Arroyo has accused her political foes of damaging relations with the United States.

Aquino, who had been living in New York, was indicted on Oct. 6. Acting as an unregistered foreign agent carries a sentence of up to 10 years and a $250,000 fine.

FBI spy?

Aquino was once the deputy director of the Philippine National Police and was a senior superintendent of the now-disbanded Philippines Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Aragoncillo, 46, who as a US Marine had worked in the vice president's office at the White House, is in plea negotiations with federal prosecutors, according to a court document. He has not been indicted.

The 21-year Marine veteran worked at the White House from 1999 to 2001 and was assigned to the vice president's office under both Al Gore and Dick Cheney. He was suspended by the FBI after his arrest.

An FBI complaint accused Aragoncillo of the same offenses as Aquino, along with unauthorized use of a government computer, which carries a sentence of up to 10 years and a $250,000 fine.

Aragoncillo became a civilian employee of the FBI in July 2004 in New Jersey. He began sending classified information and documents in January, including some to Aquino, according to the FBI complaint.

US government officials said the FBI is investigating whether Aragoncillo took classified information from the White House when he worked in the vice president's office and passed it to Filipino officials. *Reuters, AP, AFP*

Pichay poses challenge to Joe de V speakership

From page A1

challenger, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, as "ambitious." But he had piped down by the afternoon, telling the INQUIRER: "Everybody is free to contend in a democracy such as ours."

The usually voluble Pichay—a stalwart of the ruling Lakas-CMD, head of the 12-member House contingent to the Commission on Appointments, and President Macapagal-Arroyo's staunchest defender in the chamber—could not be reached for comment.

De Venecia said the ongoing struggle among members of the ruling coalition in the House stemmed from the failed impeachment campaign against the President.

"Those who [voted for] impeachment are now being requested to vacate their [committee chairmanships], while those who voted against impeachment are [scrambling] to take over the vacated posts. That's a legitimate exercise," he said.

He called on the erstwhile members of the majority to "tender their resignation as a matter of *delicadeza*," and spare the chamber further dissension.

Powerful alliance

As to whether Pichay could muster the necessary force to snatch the speakership, De Venecia said: "There are 236 House members, so you've got to have the numbers, or at least 120."

He expressed confidence of emerging victor, saying: "All I can tell you is that we have a powerful alliance [among] Lakas and the Nationalist People's Coalition, two-thirds of the Liberal Party, the Nacionalista Party (NP), the Social Democrats and the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi)."

De Venecia said that despite the ongoing conflict in the House, its planned reorganization would be completed on Nov. 3 and presented on the floor for concurrence of the plenary on Nov. 7.

"Yes, we are now working it out," he said.

Signature campaign

Pichay's friends in the chamber, who asked not to be named, said he had merely laughed off rumors on the supposed ouster move.

"Look who's talking," said Pichay's friends, referring to opposition Representatives Jacinto Paras and Rolex Suplico who disclosed a signature campaign against De Venecia at a press forum in Quezon City on Thursday.

So far, 65 members of the majority have cast their lot with Pichay, according to Paras and Suplico.

But according to House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles of Davao, a "creeping ouster campaign" surfaces every time a major reorganization is conducted.

"The coalition is solid as a rock," declared Nograles, who was present at the press forum.

He said he was "one of the closest" to Pichay but the latter had not told him of the ouster move, implying that it remained at the level of a rumor.

"This grumbling happens if there are vacant committee chairmanships," Nograles said, pointing out that the majority bloc had sought the reorganization to purge the ruling coalition of anti-Arroyo lawmakers.

In the House, 120 Lakas members comprise the biggest bloc. There are only 51 opposition lawmakers on paper—those who voted to impeach Ms Arroyo on Sept. 6.

Long shot

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the supposed ouster move was a "long shot" because the renegade Lakas members needed half, or 118 votes, to oust De Venecia and trigger a changing of the guard in the House.

Suplico called on Pichay to confer with San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora "and get the support of the moderate opposition."

According to Suplico, the NP bloc and Kampi, the President's party, "may also throw their support behind [the ouster move]."

The maneuvering within the majority bloc over the reorganization of the chamber—waged behind closed doors for more than two months—finally spilled over to the floor when administration Rep. Antonio Cerilles (NPC, Zamboanga del Sur) moved to declare all seats vacant.

But the lack of quorum prompted the House to adjourn on Oct. 13, leaving the issue hanging until Congress resumes session on Nov. 7.

De Venecia has two options to quell unrest within his "Sunshine" coalition—fire all committee chairs and House leaders who joined the impeachment campaign, or preserve the status quo.

Positioning

Kampi is eyeing two seats in the Commission on Appointments, but Lakas has its own candidates.

Rep. Amelita Villarosa (Kampi, Occidental Mindoro) and Herminia Ramiro (Lakas, Misamis Occidental) have been recommended to chair the much-coveted committee on accounts long vacated by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Lakas, Surigao del Norte).

Rep. Eric Singson (LP, Ilocos Sur), although a strong candidate to replace Deputy Speaker for Luzon Benigno Aquino III, has refused to give up his chairmanship of the public works committee, even after a Kampi member, Rep. Generoso Tulagan of Pangasinan, has been designated to replace him.

But according to Nograles, nothing is final until acted on by the plenary.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Metro water rates to rise due to VAT

By Christine Gaylican

PRIVATE WATER CONCESSIONAIRES SERving Metro Manila and nearby cities will also raise water rates by 10-30 centavos per cubic meter as a result of the expanded value added tax (E-VAT) next month.

For the east zone serviced by the Manila Water Company Inc., this means a household consuming an average of 30 cubic meters a month will pay P5-6 more. In the west zone, customers of the Maynilad Water Services Inc. will pay an average P10-11 more per month. These estimates were made by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Regulatory Office and water companies that account for more than 13 million customers.

This increase in water rates would take effect as soon as the implementing rules and regulations of the E-VAT had been published in newspapers, according to MWSS chief regulator Eduardo C. Santos in an interview.

"Since this is a change in the law, the (increase) is automatic and no prior request and corresponding approval is needed," Santos told the INQUIRER. At present, customers' water bills include the basic charge, currency adjustment, environment and sewerage charges, the existing 10 percent VAT.

MWCI director for regulatory affairs Virgilio Rivera Jr. had said that further adjustments might be effected as the E-VAT would also increase the company's operating costs. Rivera said the company might have to apply for a separate petition to increase rates to reflect additional costs. By January, both water concessionaires were also due to increase rates to reflect inflation rates this year.

Manila Water services Manila's east zone: parts of the cities of Manila, Quezon, Makati, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, and Taguig, the town of Pateros and a portion of Rizal province. Maynilad's service area covers all of Manila except San Andres and Sta. Ana, parts of the cities of Quezon, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Cavite and Malabon, Navotas, and some towns of Cavite province.

RAINY DAY GAME
These two children enjoy a brief shower as they play along the NIA Road in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

No transport strike, but drivers' rally

By Clarissa S. Batino

TRANPSORT GROUPS ARE SHELVing a planned transport holiday on Monday. But they may still be in the streets as they intend to hold a demonstration in front of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) office in Guadalupe.

"The consensus now is to push through with a rally to air the grievances of the transport sector against MMDA and to clamor for government action on non-fuel remedies we have recommended to President Arroyo," said Vigor Mendoza, lawyer and spokesperson of the transport groups. If Monday's rally does not get any results, the transport sector would go on strike later, Mendoza said. He added a rally permit had been issued by Makati City. Some 3,500 to 5,000 drivers and operators of public utility vehicles were expected to join the demonstration.

"The transport groups would like to show the public that they are exhausting all measures to make the government listen and deliver what it promised before they ask for a fare increase," said the lawyer. Monday's protest action would denounce the continued refusal of the MMDA "to follow the rule of law," Mendoza said.

The MMDA's no-contact apprehension plan and the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket System are both in place despite a Makati court injunction.

NBI seeks dismissal of Jaylo agents

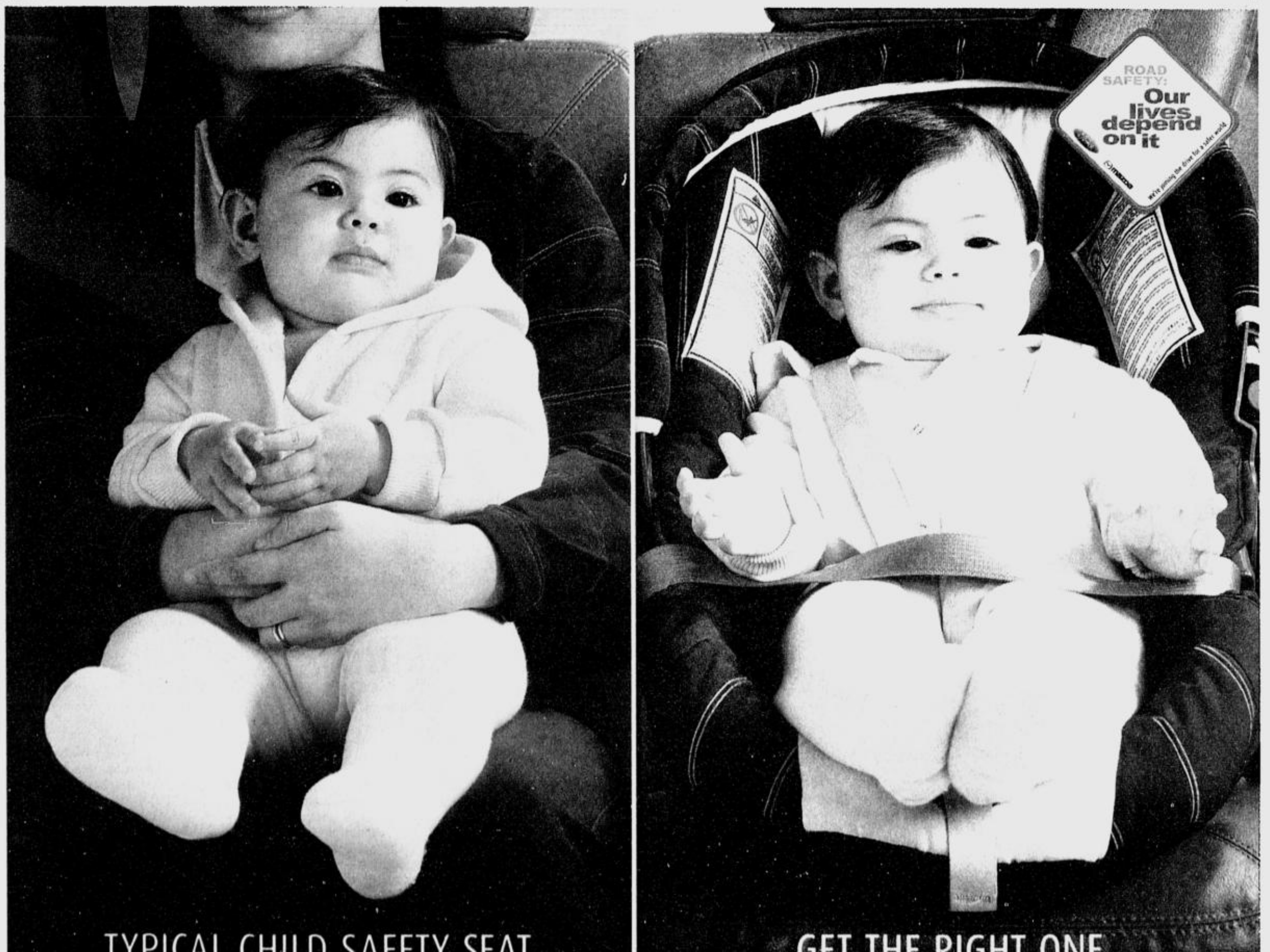
By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIgation (NBI) has recommended that summary dismissal proceedings be initiated against 11 operatives of the defunct Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (PAIRTF) arrested last week for alleged extortion activities.

In a letter to Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, the NBI also recommended that the suspects be placed under preventive suspension. The operatives of the PAIRTF agents under former Senior Insp. Reynaldo Jaylo, now a director at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, were charged with qualified bribery, usurpation of authority and illegal possession of firearms.

"Pursuant to Sections 50 and 51 of Executive Order 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, summary dismissal for grave misconduct should be initiated against the suspects," the bureau's Interpol Division chief Ricardo Diaz.

The Department of Justice recommended no bail for suspects SPO2 Santiago Sy and PO3 Francisco Quito of the Traffic Management Group; SPO1 Romeo Noriega and PO2 Dexter Ramile of the Manila Police District; and intelligence officers Rolando Arce, Mercy Grace Gamores, Allan Tubil, Ruel Lontoc, Nelson Ferrer, Ricardo Duque and Christopher Lucero. The suspects were arrested in an entrapment operation following a complaint from Jerome and Mary Jane France who alleged the Jaylo agents arrested them and demanded P200,000 for their release.



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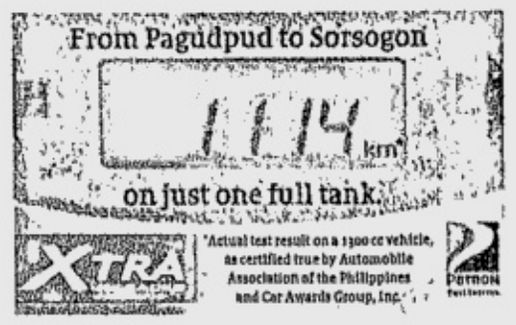


Gatchalian backs Benitez claim

Team official also facilitated ex-Green Archer's eligibility papers

By Musong R. Castillo and Francis Ochoa

TIM GATCHALIAN, THE SECOND OF TWO PLAYERS from La Salle's 2004 champion team who have been tagged as having fake eligibility documents, has also named the university's liaison officer as the one who processed his papers.

Gatchalian made the statement before a La Salle investigative panel late Thursday afternoon, an INQUIRER source revealed yesterday.

He singled out the same school official whom Mark Benitez had also fingered when the 6-foot-5 center was interviewed by the panel, which De La Salle University formed to inquire into the eligibility scandal.

Benitez was the first player from the 2004 roster named in the scandal, which broke out after La Salle admitted that one of its players allegedly faked his equivalency test results to get into the school and into the Green Archers' varsity squad.

Gatchalian made his statement before the committee made up of Br. Bobby Casingal, FSC, La Salle's sports development head; a school lawyer, and a representative from the registrar's office. La Salle executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco and board of trustees and regents member Lito Tanjuatco, the lead figures in the panel, were not present during the interview.

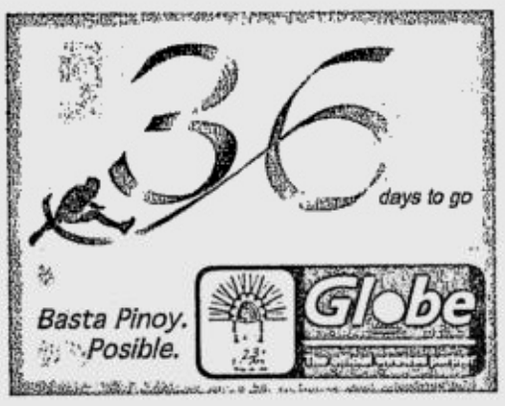
The Gatchalian probe started after La Salle, acting on a breaking story by the INQUIRER, investigated and found that a second player also had fake credentials that allowed him to join the Archers.

Gatchalian's testimony differed slightly from that of Benitez and only named the liaison officer as the one who facilitated his papers. Benitez tagged the officer and a former member of the La Salle coaching staff as the ones who worked on his documents.

As in the case of Benitez, Gatchalian took the Philippine Educational Placement Test and received a certificate from the officer that he passed it. A check with the Department of Education later showed that the certificate was fake.

The source said La Salle is taking a

GATCHALIAN/ A20



Mikee riding for RP after all

MIKEE COJUANGCO-Jaworski has decided to come out of retirement to bolster the country's equestrian campaign in next month's Southeast Asian Games.

Equestrian chef d' equipe Carisa Coscolluela announced yesterday that Cojuangco-Jaworski, the Asian Games gold medalist, has been called back to duty after the horse of one of the national riders failed to make quarantine requirements.

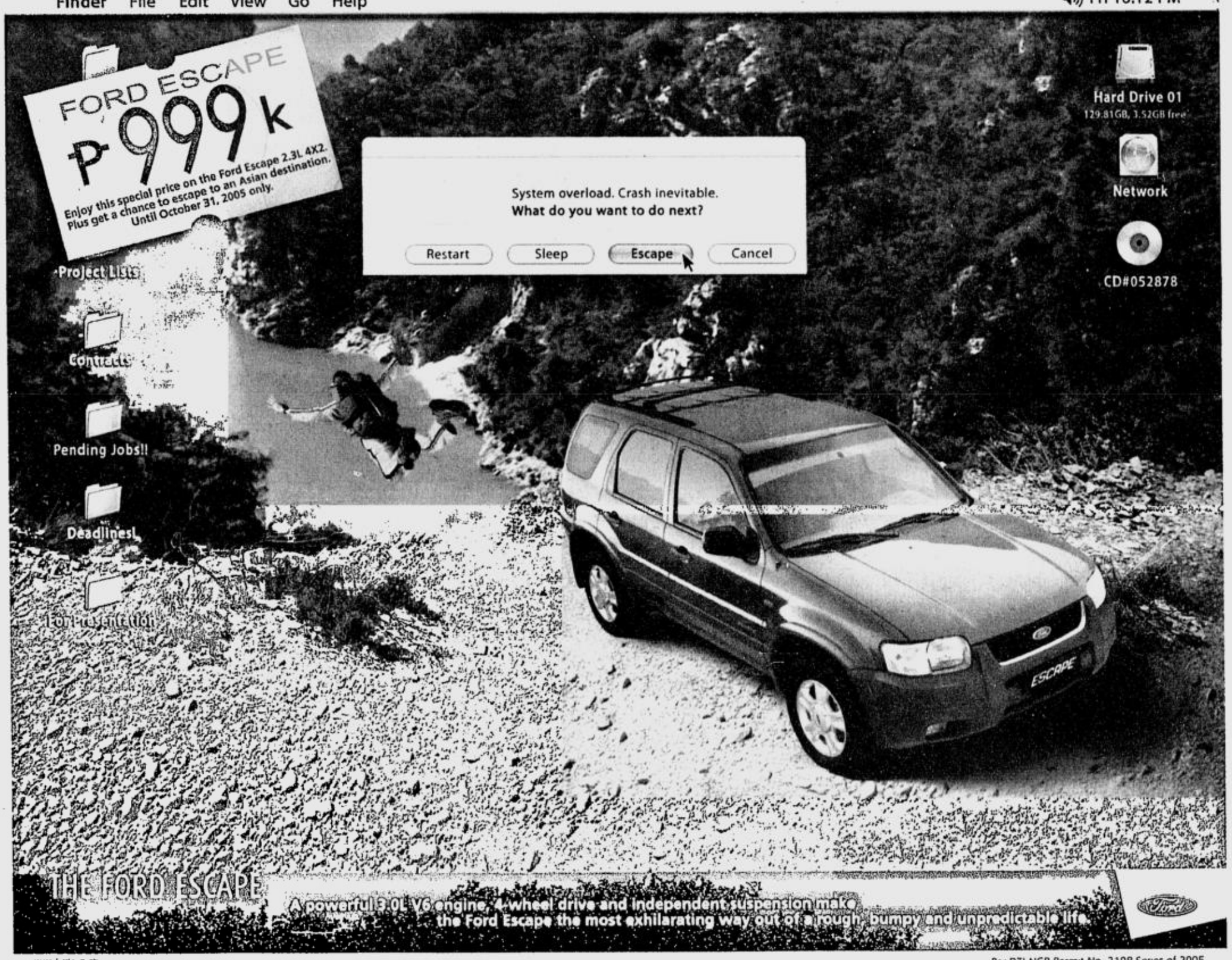
Coscoluella, speaking at the SCOOP sa Kamayan sponsored by Accel Sports, said the mount of team member Paola Zobel won't make it to Manila from Spain on time because of complications in the quarantine arrangements.

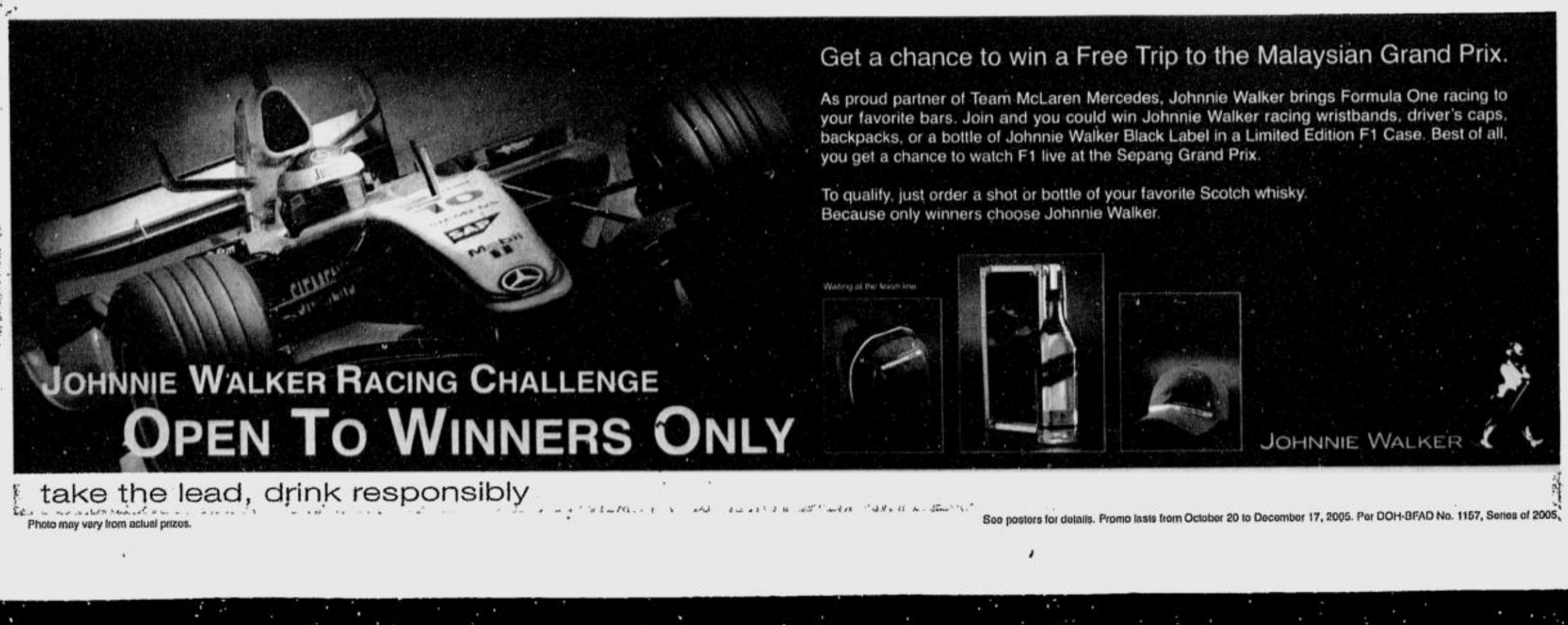
"It is unfortunate that Paola Zobel will not be riding for the Philippines as she has extensively trained in Europe," she said.

"But we are pleased to announce that Mikee will be back, and we now rely on her vast experience."

The other members of the RP team are Olympian Marie Antoinette Leviste, Juan Ramon Lanza and Joker Arroyo.

Marc Anthony Reyes





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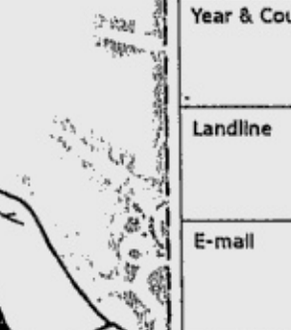

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Saturday October 22, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM
NBN				Corporate Boards League		Concert at the Park		Ting ng Bayan (Live)		
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Nginig		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only	
ABC 5		KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Mr. Fighting
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	
RPN 9		Tara Lets	Ma'm Working	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nation's Peacekeeper	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		
SBN 21		New Life TV Shopping		Friends Again		Shepards Voice		EZ Shop		JAI
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Gilmore Girls
MTV Philippines	Hanging Out	MTV Hits	Wade Robson Project	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out
MYX		MYX Bandarilo	MYX News	MYX Presents		Taka 5		Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	Next@CNN	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	International Correspondents	World News
ESPN										Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '05
Solar Sports										
Sports Plus					Golf International B	Porsche Rnd 11	US OPEN 2005 Women's Doubles Final			
Cinemax										
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Napoleon				Napoleon				The Freediver
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Extreme Machines		Beyond The Bermuda Triangle		Hour China		Wild Discovery
National Geographic		China Special				Penguin Death Zone		Creature Feature		
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	The Road Runner Show	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Wmx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack
Nickelodeon	1, 2, 3	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Chalkzone	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	Best Of Spanish Design		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Monk		John Doe		Chronicles: News From The Edge
AXN		The Cable Guy				AXN Shakedown		WRC 2005: Rally XS France	E Buzz	Gamemax
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Chost	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline
ETC		Saturday Night Live		For Love Or Money		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy
HBO	How To Deal (2:20 PM)			Elf			Let's Get Harry (5:35 PM)			The First Wives Club (7:15 PM)
Star Movies	Snakers (2:45 PM)			Mystery, Alaska (4:55 PM)				Snow Falling On Cedars (6:50 PM)		
Cinema One	Alshete Imasu				Di Na Nakuto				My Movie	
EWTN	Voices On Virtue	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Bastillodos	Story Keepers	Faith Factory C	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	Catholic Compass		The World Over

Channel	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	The Working President	GSIS Member's Hour		UN Summit - PGMA		Paco Park Presents		Auto Focus	
ABS-CBN 2	Quizon Avenue	Magandang Gabi Bayan		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
ABC 5		Wow Maling Mali		Club TV		Ran			
GMA 7	Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Shipped			
RPN 9		CSI: Miami		Fil 9 Ball Open Semis				Money Talk	
IBC 13				Bitag		EZ Shop	Philippine Sabong Sports	In This Corner	
SBN 21		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23		The Bachelorette		Studio 23 Present					Reel Deal
MTV Philippines	Jack & Bobby	MTV Livewire		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	MTV Cribs	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN	Pop MYX	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart: Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
ESPN	Global Office	Sportscenter Asia	Mlb Championship Series						
Solar Sports			Sports Desk						
Sports Plus	UFC Onslaught Primer	Ultimate Fighting Championship Special						Funai Classic at the Walt Disney World Resort D2	
Cinemax							Against The Ropes		
Hallmark Channel				Last Call	Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women Of Camelot				
Disney Channel	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel				Guilty Or Innocent		True Horror		Extreme Discovery	
National Geographic		Mystery Of The Dakar		Leopard Seals		Big Bite Nite			
Cartoon Network	The Scarecrow			Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	The Grimsazors	Justice League	Sealab 2021 (11:15PM)	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Nickelodeon	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Gids In Love	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Nigella Bites II	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Look For Less	My Crazy Life 102		Fashion Trance	
Star World		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters		Enterprise		Kumars At 42	Less Than Perfect
AXN	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	The Amazing Race Family Edition		Las Vegas		House		The Shield	
JackTV		Wwe Raw				South Park	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Best The Geeks
ETC		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO				Catwoman			Deadwood 10: Mister Wu		Something's Gotta Give
Star Movies		The Day After Tomorrow				Joan Of Arc (11:05PM)			
Cinema One			Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin				Sigaw		
EWTN		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Choices We Face	Crisis in Culture	Life on The Rock Encore	

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INQBOX

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Bondad fires 72, shows way in HK

HONG KONG—FRANCES BONDAD turned in an eagle-spiked one-under-par 72 to take a one-stroke lead over Thai Pornanong Phatlum at the start yesterday of the 2005 Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Asian Golf Monthly International Amateur Open at Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Club's north course.

Unfamiliar with the course, the 17-year-old Bondad arrived just the night before and played the tight layout conservatively. Her eagle came on the 10th hole, a par-5, when she holed a wedge shot from 50 yards.

Bondad's 34-38 round also included a birdie on No. 1 and back-to-back bogeys from No. 13. She parred the 17th despite three-putting from the fringe.

Still, the reigning RP Amateurs match play champion—who with US-based Jayvie Agojo will spearhead the RP team's bid in next month's Southeast Asian Games in Manila—put herself in the lead of the 54-hole tournament.

But the two other RP teeners seeing action here failed to come up with a solid start as Mia Piccio, who finished second to Bondad in the RP Amateurs in Bacolod, skied to an 83 and Crystal Superal bombed out with an 84.

BONDAD: Eagle-spiked round

Bondad placed third in the recent Hong Kong Ladies Open Amateur Championship in Fanling, behind Phatlum and Porani Chutichai, Thailand's 1-2 punch in the SEAG.

Phatlum failed to sustain a fine front side of 33.

Chutichai and another Thai bet, Yoopan Chiranun, carded a pair of 75s. Piccio tied for eighth with defending champion Betty Ng, while Superal, who dropped five strokes in her last two holes, shared 10th place with two others.

Meanwhile, Michael Bibat shot a four-over 76, Tonton Asistio carded a 79 and Jay Bayron struggled to an 81 to trail A.S. Wu of Taiwan at the start of men's play. Wu assembled a 70.

The RP delegation's Hong Kong stint is sponsored by golf patron Enrique Razon Jr. through the National Golf Association of the Philippines as part of the national pool members' preparations for the SEA Games slated Nov. 27-Dec. 5 at the Manila Golf Club (ladies) in Makati City and at The Country Club (men's) in Canlubang.

Morales expects to decision Pacquiao

HANDLERS OF MEXICAN RING GREAT Erik "El Terrible" Morales does not think he has what it takes to knock out Manny Pacquiao, but are confident the Tijuana fighter will beat the Filipino again on points.

Jose "Olivaritos" Morales, Erik's father and manager, predicted this yesterday when asked by Mexican media, as quoted by the website Boxlatino, about his son's fight against Pacquiao on Jan. 21 in Las Vegas.

"One of the great virtues of Pacquiao is that he has a granite jaw which resists much punishment, and I believe that Erik must move to make an intelligent fight, to give [Pacquiao] a boxing lesson and to win on points," the elder Morales said.

Jose said that if Erik stays at the Centro Ceremonial Otomi for two more months, his son "will have a sure victory, because he would come to the fight very tough by then."

The World Boxing Council ruled during its recent annual convention in Spain that the rematch will serve as an eliminator, with the winner advancing to meet WBC and IBF super-featherweight king Marco Antonio Barrera. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

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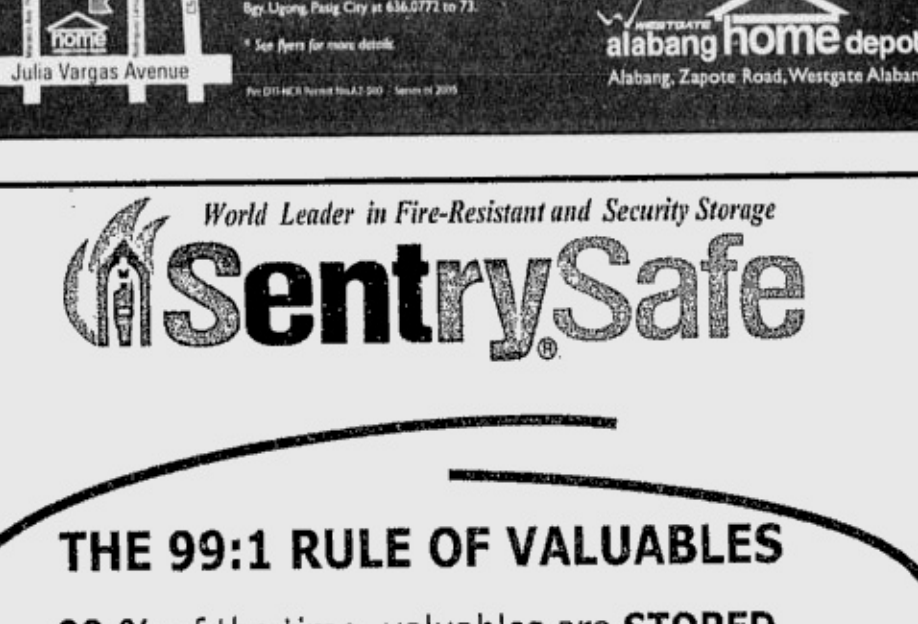

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Cardona dares coach to check DepEd files

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

MARK CARDONA was incredulous. He couldn't believe National University coach Manny Dandan would deliberately issue an erroneous statement to the press.

Dandan said MacMac had failed the Philippine Educational Placement Test at the time he tried out with the Bulldogs in year 2000, the reason why he had to turn away the cager, despite his talent.

"*Walang katotohanan 'yun*. How could he claim that I failed the test when I hadn't even taken it (PEPT) at that time. I tried out with NU in the last quarter of 1999, not 2000. I took the test in 2001 and I passed it. *Walang sumama sa akin noong kumuha ako, walang tumulong at walang naglakad. Ako rin mismo ang kumuha ng* result two weeks later. I signed for it, and this I turned over to De La Salle University. I took the test only once. They can look into the DepEd records if they want."

MacMac said the reason he was turned down by Dandan had nothing to do with academics.

"*Hindi siguro siya* impressed *sa akin. Baka wala akong dating—sobrang payatot ko kasi noon, parang kiti-kiti, butuhan ang mukha, malalim ang mga mata—baka napagkamalan akong* drug addict."

MacMac said he finished Level 10 at the Carson High in the United States, which did not qualify him for a high school diploma.

***

Resourceful Col. Julian Malonso, who got hold of a copy of the police report filed by two-time Olympian Tony Genato at the Galas precinct, read out some of the vital data in the document.

To start with, the road incident where Genato was beaten up by a father-son tandem, happened last Sept. 27, and not Oct. 4, Malonzo clarified.

"*Sabi nung mga tao dun sa presinto, dumating daw si Tony* half-naked *dahil pinagpunit-punit nung mag-amang bumugbog sa kanya ang kanyang damit. Hindi rin daw magalaw ang mga daliri dahil hinawakan pala nung anak ang mga kamay niya habang sinusuntok siya ng tatay, para hindi siya makaganti*," Malonzo, a former POC president, related.

The case is now in court.

***

Received an e-mail from a woman who had a run-in with one of the PBA Fil-Ams during a recent Oktoberfest celebration.

An incident report was submitted by the woman to the cager's ballclub for disposition.

The letter is too long to be reprinted, the conflict between the woman and the cager stemming from something petty actually. The cager, a guest in the celebration, wanted a San Mig light. The lady could only offer San Miguel Pale Pilsen. The cager insisted on drinking nothing but San Mig Light and gave the woman P500 to buy the drink elsewhere. She obliged. The drink was consumed, and he asked for another P500 worth of San Mig Light. He told the woman he would pay for his drink later.

Again, the woman obliged.

In between gulps, rain poured and the cager stood up to leave the place and run to his car. The woman, who advanced the P500, came after him and demanded payment. He refused to pay, saying that he was an invited guest and was supposed to be doing the woman a favor with his presence. The woman would not hear of it, she wanted her money.

The cager got very annoyed. He shouted, fished out some bills from his pocket and hurled them in the woman's face.

She was shocked. Could not imagine the cager could be that rude.

End of story, cager sent an emissary, his team manager, to apologize for him.

The woman accepted the apology. But still she sent an incident report to the ballclub management.

***

Reader Teddy Reynoso of Bulacan vehemently opposes the Philsoc's move to enlist the services of Angel Locsin, better known as Darna, to promote the Manila Southeast Asian Games.

"Isn't that an inane idea? That's like the USA using Superman to endorse the Olympic Games at home. To me, it's an act of desperation. Why, we have so many real sports heroes to do the job," e-mailed Teddy, "If they think Darna's 40 percent-plus rating could translate to public awareness and support for the SEAG, they might be disappointed."

Ozamiz five takes Game 1 over Cavite

PLAYMAKER BOB COZY ILANGA SCORED on a layup with five seconds left as Ozamiz stole Game 1 of the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball finals with a come-from-behind 65-63 victory Thursday over Far Eastern Insurance-backed Cavite at the Washington gym in Makati City.

The 5-foot-8 Ilanga, son of former Crispa player Willie Tanduyan, came out from a high pick set up by Christian Nicdao and hit the game-winner over the outstretched arms of Marvin Ortiguerra, completing the fiery rally of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's cagers.

Cavite's Jay-Ar Estrada's triple try at the buzzer rimmed out.

Two costly errors by Christian Coronel in the last two minutes doomed the Insurers' bid.

"We're lucky," said Ozamiz coach Albert Calvo. "Bob (Ilanga) was not afraid to take the big shot. We'll definitely go for a sweep at home."

The Insurers of Bacoor Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar and supporter Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi looked headed to victory when they erected a 56-49 lead at the start of the payoff period. But Ozamiz limited Cavite to seven points the rest of the way.

The best-of-three series is supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Prime Channel, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza Cebu.

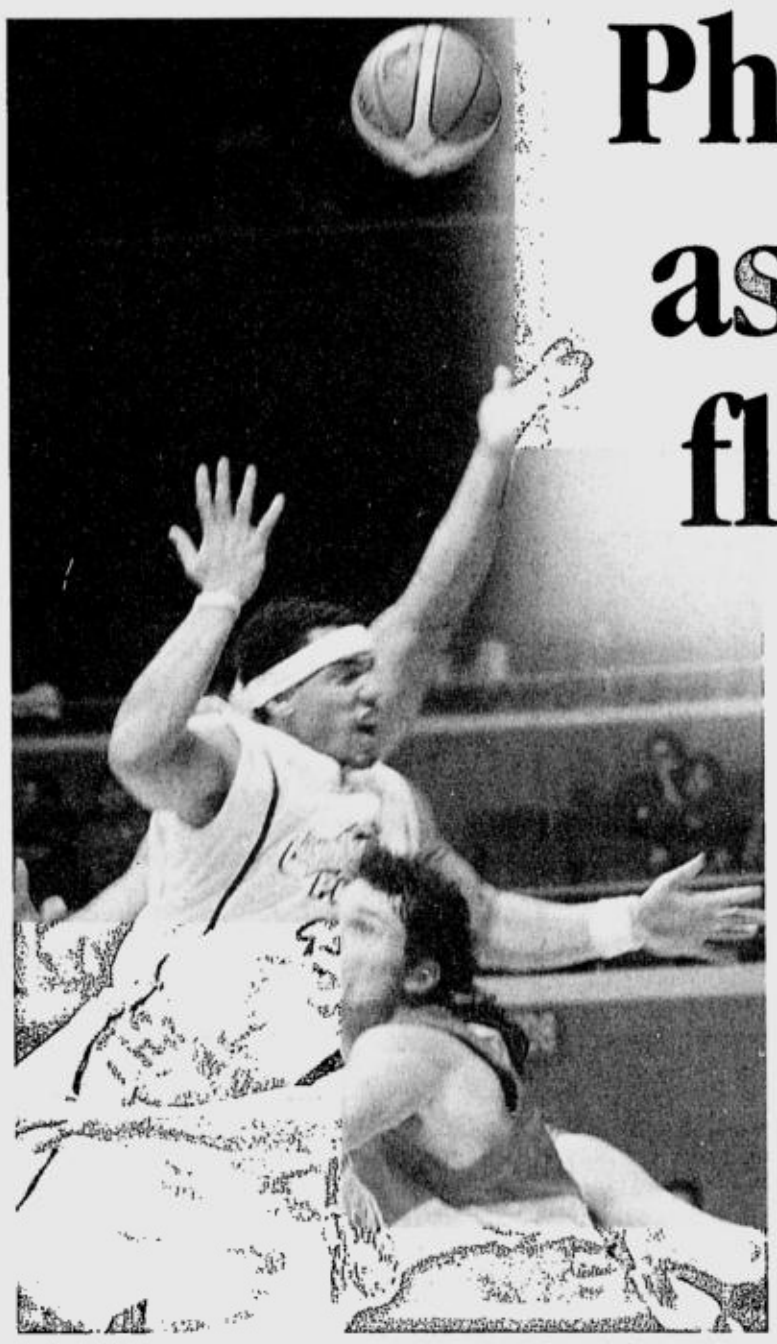
The scores:

OZAMIZ 65—Bansil 13, Cabigkis 11, Nicdao 10, Ilanga 7, Sampilo 7, Llangco 7, Delina 4, Alvarado 2, Libatog 2, Alberto 2, Butel 0, Aquino 0, Conmigo 0.

CAVITE 63—Sierra 15, Ortiguerra 12, Coronel 8, Estrada 8, Rodriguez 8, Bonus, Mamaclay 3, Booker 3, Baluyot 0, Yabut 0, Diaz 0.

Quarters: 19-15, 37-35, 49-53, 65-63

Phone Pals score as Tigers import flubs free throw



TALK 'N TEXT forward Harvey Carey gets fouled on the way to the basket by Coca-Cola gunner Will Antonio. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAME TODAY (*Xavier University Gym, Cagayan De Oro*)
4:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Barangay Ginebra
GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Air21 vs Sta. Lucia Realty
6:40 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs San Miguel Beer

By June Navarro

ON THE VERGE OF BEING SENT HOME, Alex Carcamo had a chance to prove his team wrong last night. Unfortunately, he didn't make the most of the opportunity.

Carcamo flubbed a decisive free throw last night, allowing Talk 'N Text to escape with an 82-81 squeaker over Coca-Cola in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

With no time left and his team down by two, Carcamo drove desperately toward the rim and fetched a foul from Mark Telan. But he muffed the front end of his charities and sealed the Tigers' third defeat in four games.

Carcamo wrapped up a brief PBA appearance with 17 points and 16 rebounds.

The Tigers have already called up Omar Thomas, a 6-foot-5 slasher from the University of Texas-El Paso in the US NCAA. Thomas will be flying in before the Tigers' next game against Purefoods on Wednesday next week.

Damien Cantrell scored what turned out to be the winning basket with 4.9 seconds left off a nifty feed by Jimmy Alapag.

In the second game, Alaska hammered out a 111-108 double overtime victory over Air21 for its third win in five games.

The Aces came back from a four-point deficit in the last 12.5 seconds of regulation and from a three-point hole in the last 7.2 ticks of the first overtime to hand the Express their third loss in four outings.

The scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 82—Alapag 23, Cantrell 13, Miller 13, Carey 12, Telan 8, Belano 7, Taulava 4, Gelig 2, Washington 0, Cardona 0.

COCA-COLA 81—Arigo 18, Carcamo 17, Peek 13, Abarrientos 11, Mamaril 10, Miranda 6, Antonio 3, Juinio 2, Raneses 1, Morano 0.

Quarters: 18-30, 31-52, 50-67, 82-81.

Second Game

ALASKA 111—Carlaso 22, Dela Cruz 18, Cablay 17, Allado 16, McClary 14, Hugnatan 10, Alvarez 8, Thoss 6, Wilson 0.

AIR21—Daniels 24, Gonzales 21, Arboleda 19, Ritualo 17, R. De Ocampo 12, Y. De Ocampo 6, Canaleta 3, Ferriols 3, Se 2, Tubid 1, Dacia 0, David 0, Fran 0.

Quarters: 22-22, 44-44, 71-66, 91-91, 102-102, 111-108

Gatchalian backs . . .

From page A17

special interest in the Gatchalian case because the former Jose Rizal standout took the test after flunking a minor subject—Speech—in high school.

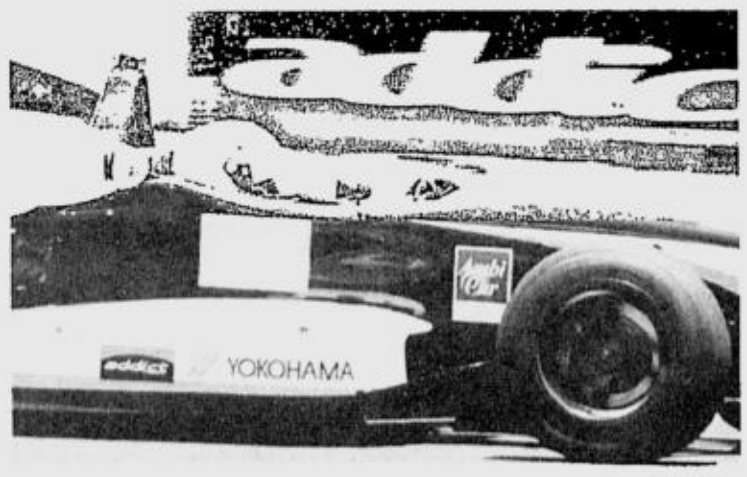
Gatchalian claims to have entered the school in good faith, saying he was made to believe that he passed the PEPT. He is reportedly just one term short of graduation, and La Salle is eyeing a compromise that will allow him to finish his degree in Sports Management for humanitarian reasons. Gatchalian is already taking his practicum.

Gatchalian's testimony, which corroborated key details given by Benitez to the panel, further fueled suspicions that a group from the school helps out in facilitating the Archers' recruitment program.

The INQUIRER gathered yesterday that the group reportedly signs La Salle players to management contracts covering their amateur careers. Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that among the incorporators of the group is a former La Salle team official, the wife of another former team official and a relative of one of the members of its coaching staff.

La Salle, according to the same source, is set to come out with a statement as early as Monday about the testimonies of the two ineligible players. The school is also expected to identify the people responsible for the fake documents.

Peña vows big finish at BRC



DADO Peña hopes to end his disappointments in Batangas.

FILIPINO RACING STAR DADO Peña vows to finish strong in the final leg of the Asian Formula Three series slated Nov. 6 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario town.

Peña's year has been full of disappointments so far, the last race in Indonesia, being no different.

Scorching the track with practice times that were clocked as high as third fastest, Peña stumbled in qualifying and got no better than sixth spot on the grid.

He worked his way up to fourth place in the first race only to spin out of the track because of oil coming out of the car of 2004 champion Christian Jones. Peña eventually finished seventh.

The Nov. 6 race will complete a cycle for the AFC, which ran its first two legs over the same track earlier in the year. Series leader Ananda Mikola of Indonesia won the races in wire-to-wire fashion.

Peña, who drives for Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia, is being supported by PLDTmyPad, Hanjin Shipping, H&R Springs and Koni Dampers and Speedzone Karting.

"We have one race left, and the team will be putting maximum effort to end the year on a high note," said team owner and 2002 AF3 champion Mark Goddard.

SPORTSWATCH

WBL caging resumes at two venues

COMMUNITY of Learners (COL) will try to continue its win streak in the high school competitive division of the BEST Center-organized Women's Basketball League which resumes today and tomorrow in two venues. COL, coming off a 42-35 win over PWU-JASMS last weekend, takes on Colegio de Santa Rosa in the 1 p.m. first match of a three-game schedule at the University of the Philippines College of Human Kinetics gym in Diliman, Quezon City. In other matches, Southville goes up against Poveda, also at 1 p.m. in high school developmental B; Assumption College battles JASMS in high school competitive and Saint James Academy takes on New Era University, both at 2:15 p.m.; and Ateneo fights La Salle and Assumption College clashes with University of Santo Tomas, both in the college division at 2:15 p.m. Action tomorrow in the Milo-backed tournament founded 18 years ago by BEST Center founder Nic Jorge and which drew 37 teams this season shifts to the San Beda College-Manila gym in Mendiola.

Tams party at Enchanted Kingdom

ENCHANTED Kingdom, the country's only world-class theme park, will roll out the red carpet for UAAP champions Far Eastern University Tamaraws very soon. Lovable Enchanted Kingdom characters led by Eldar the Wizard will throw a party for the Tamaraws and some less fortunate children. UAAP fans who watched the cage finals at Araneta Coliseum are each entitled to a free carousel pass, which gives holders free entrance to the theme park. These passes may also be upgraded to day passes for P300 during weekdays and for P400 on weekends.

Blue Ridge sets 52 matches

ALL ROADS lead to Las Piñas Coliseum tonight as the Blue Ridge 4-stag derby opens at 7 p.m. with 52 matches on tap. Derby host is veteran breeder Rey Oliveros, who will be supported by members of the National Cockers Association (NCA) as well as leading breeders of Rizal, Laguna and Cavite. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000. Another 4-stag derby kicks off on Oct. 29 with Danny Alejo as host. Alejo confirmed the participation of more than 40 entries. For inquiries, call 8731040 and 8743910.

PCAP 5-stag tilt on tap

THE EIGHTH leg of Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby gets going Monday at Makati Coliseum. With two more events left before the PCAP Stagfighter of the Year is finally known, competition is expected to be highly explosive, since 15 participants are capable of winning the title. For other details, interested parties may call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

La Salle-Zobel leads WNCAA championship hopefuls

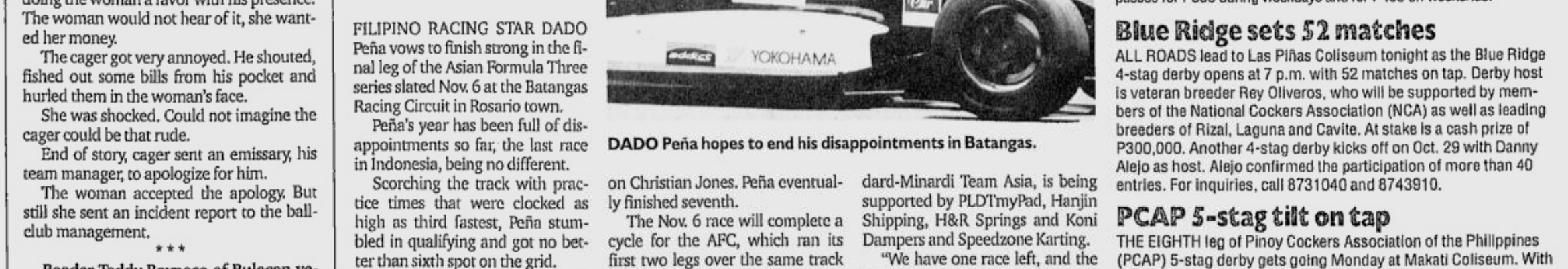
FOUR SQUADS ARE OUT TO TAKE home championship titles today when the WNCAA 36th season basketball and volleyball tournaments hold its final playing weekend at the SSC gym.

Defending junior basketball champion De La Salle Zobel will try to nail its second straight title when it meets Miriam College in Game 2 starting at 8:30 a.m.

It's a toss-up in the 11 a.m. senior B playoff game pitting San Beda College Alabang against St. Scholastica's College.

SBCA is a title contender anew in volleyball when its midget squad seeks the championship against La Salle College Antipolo at 11:30 a.m.

The WNCAA 36th season is being supported by Adidas, Penshoppe, Mikasa, Molten, Cherifer vitamin, Rio 106.7 and ABC 5.



Devance outshines Williams as Toyota Otis downs Magnolia

JOE CALVIN DEVANCE GOT THE BETter end of his showdown with Kelly Williams as Toyota Otis-Letran outlasted Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream, 60-53, Thursday in the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup pre-season match at the Reyes Gym in Mandaluyong.

Devance proved that Toyota Otis did not make a mistake in making him the season's No. 1 pick as the 6-foot-7 center from Hawaii dazzled the gallery with his repertoire of shots.

Aside from his athleticism, Devance also proved to be a good outside shooter, knocking in two three-point shots to finish the game with 15 points.

It was a performance that will surely make him one of the players to watch when the season-opening tourney kicks off on Oct. 29 at the La Salle Green Hills.

"He's still adjusting to our system, but he's a fast learner," said Toyota Otis coach Louie Alas who is gunning for back-to-back titles after steering Letran to the NCAA championship last month.

Arwind Santos, back-to-back UAAP MVP, also played sparingly in the final half and wound up with four points.

The wiry Santos, arguably the country's top amateur player, is hoping to give Magnolia another title to complete a big year, having helped Far Eastern U regain the UAAP crown.

2 title bouts headline Espinosa card

TWO PHILIPPINE TITLE bouts topbill a 76-round benefit card on Oct. 29 at the San Andres Civic and Sports Center in Manila. Eric Barcelona defends his RP super flyweight crown against Celso Danggod. In another 12-round title fight, reigning RP lightweight champion Fernando Montilla takes on Dexter Delada. The card, put up by Braveheart Promotions, aims to raise funds for former world titleholder Luisito Espinosa who is locked in a nine-year legal battle to collect his prize of $150,000 following his win over Carlos Rios of Argentina. Project spearhead Gov. Manny Piñol said he hopes to raise P500,000 for the legal funds of Espinosa. Six eight-rounders and a four-rounder complete the slambang card.

3 RP officials pass Fita judges exam

THREE FILIPINO National and continental archery judges passed the recent Fita Judges Seminar in Jakarta, Indonesia. They are Karla R. Cabrera, Fe M. Empaynado and Mildred de Leon. According to Fita international judge and member of the Fita Judge Commission Sergio Font Milian of Cuba, Cabrera topped the examination. The Fita will accredit the three after they officiate in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, which was approved as a world-ranking tournament by the international body. Their appointment to the SEAG Judge Commission has been approved by the NAAP and Philsoc. Mrs. Cabrera was a triple (gold, silver and bronze) medalist in the 1997 SEA Games.

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MASAHISTA 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	WALLACE & GROMIT 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
CORPSE BRIDE 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 DOOM 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05	4 DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
2 LORD OF WAR 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10	5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
3 SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL 12:15 R3 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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Oct 23 Sunday	AIR 21 vs STA LUCIA 4:10 pm RED BULL vs SAN MIGUEL 6:40 pm	Oct 26 Wed.	COCA COLA vs PUREFOODS 4:40 pm GINEBRA vs TALK N TEXT 7:25 pm

CENTER EVENTS

PROMOS	*Araneta Center Food Festival Pick-A-Prize Promo* ongoing until November 12. Get a chance to win instant prizes with every P500 purchase at selected Araneta Center dining establishments
EVENTS	*SMB Oktoberfest* every Friday & Saturday for the whole month of October at the Gateway Drive starting 9pm

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5 GOLD (DOLBY) DOOM
6 GOLD (SDDS) DEUCE BIGALOW-2
7 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
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Disney golf leaders have a lot at stake

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIda—Hunter Haas shot a career-low 9-under 63 on the easier Palm Course to take a one-shot lead in the first round of the Funai Classic on Thursday.

Haas, who needed a quick change in fortune to avoid heading to the second stage of qualifying school, led a group of players who also have a lot riding on this week's US PGA Tour event.

Among those at 64 were Ryan Moore, who is trying to become the first player since Tiger Woods to skip Q-school and go straight from college to the tour. He was joined by Mark Calcavecchia, who feels far less pressure because he's No. 27 on the money list and is trying only to get into the Tour Championship.

On a steamy day across the street from Disney World, they all took advantage of calm conditions and being on the Palm course, which played more than two shots easier than the longer, tougher Magnolia course.

"It's a grind out here," Haas said. "I wish I'd have a million dollars in the bank and have my card locked up and just be out there playing, trying to make some more money or get a victory. Sometimes, things work out in funny ways. Maybe this is the week."

HAAS: Hunting for Tour card. AFP

Charles Howell III and Nick Price were at 65. Howell tied for sixth last week in Las Vegas to move up to No. 30 on the money list, while Price is at No. 120 and might have to use a one-time exemption for career money if the Hall of Famer doesn't keep his card.

Tiger Woods has no worries, although the par 5s gave him fits.

Coming off a victory two weeks ago in the American Express Championship, Woods shot a 68 on the Palm course while struggling on the par 5s, all of which are easily reachable in two shots. *AP*

8-shot win for Juvic

JUVIC PAGUNSAN CLOSED OUT with a four-under-par 68 yesterday and added the sixth Canlubang Amateur Open to his long list of victories for the year.

The country's No. 1 won his fifth title of the season by eight strokes over longshot Rufino Bayron after tallying 280, eight under par at Cangolf's South course.

After seizing a three-shot lead following a 65 in the third round, Pagunsan turned up the heat with a 32 coming in.

Bayron, a product of the National Caddies' Open program, signed for a 72 and finished at 288, one stroke ahead of Jun Bernis (74).

Sox, Astros start World Series

CHICAGO—BACK IN SPRING TRAINING, the Houston Astros were a 20-1 shot to win the World Series. The odds on the Chicago White Sox were 22-1.

While the rest of major league baseball has gone home, they'll be on the field for Saturday's Series opener, when 43-year-old Roger Clemens starts for Houston against Jose Contreras.

"I think it's going to be a real attractive and weird World Series because you've got two teams that aren't supposed to be there," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said on Thursday. "You're not going to see the big-name franchises. Nothing against them. I think it's just good for baseball, these two franchises that have never been there—one the first time ever, the other people forget when was the last time."

A Cubs town is rooting for the White Sox, Chicago's second team—a White Sox flag was even spotted on the antenna of a truck in the parking lot of the Cubs' Wrigley Field this week. Not since 1959 have the White Sox played in the Series, and they haven't won it since 1917.

Houston had missed out every single year since starting play in 1962. No wonder Astros president Tal Smith didn't get much sleep.

After beating the Cardinals 5-1 in St. Louis to claim the National League pennant on Wednesday, the Astros didn't get back to their ballpark in Texas until 3 a.m. Smith's head hit the pillow at 5:30.

"At 7:15, the first phone call came," he said. "It was for a ticket request. And it kept ringing. I guess for once every 44 years, it's OK."

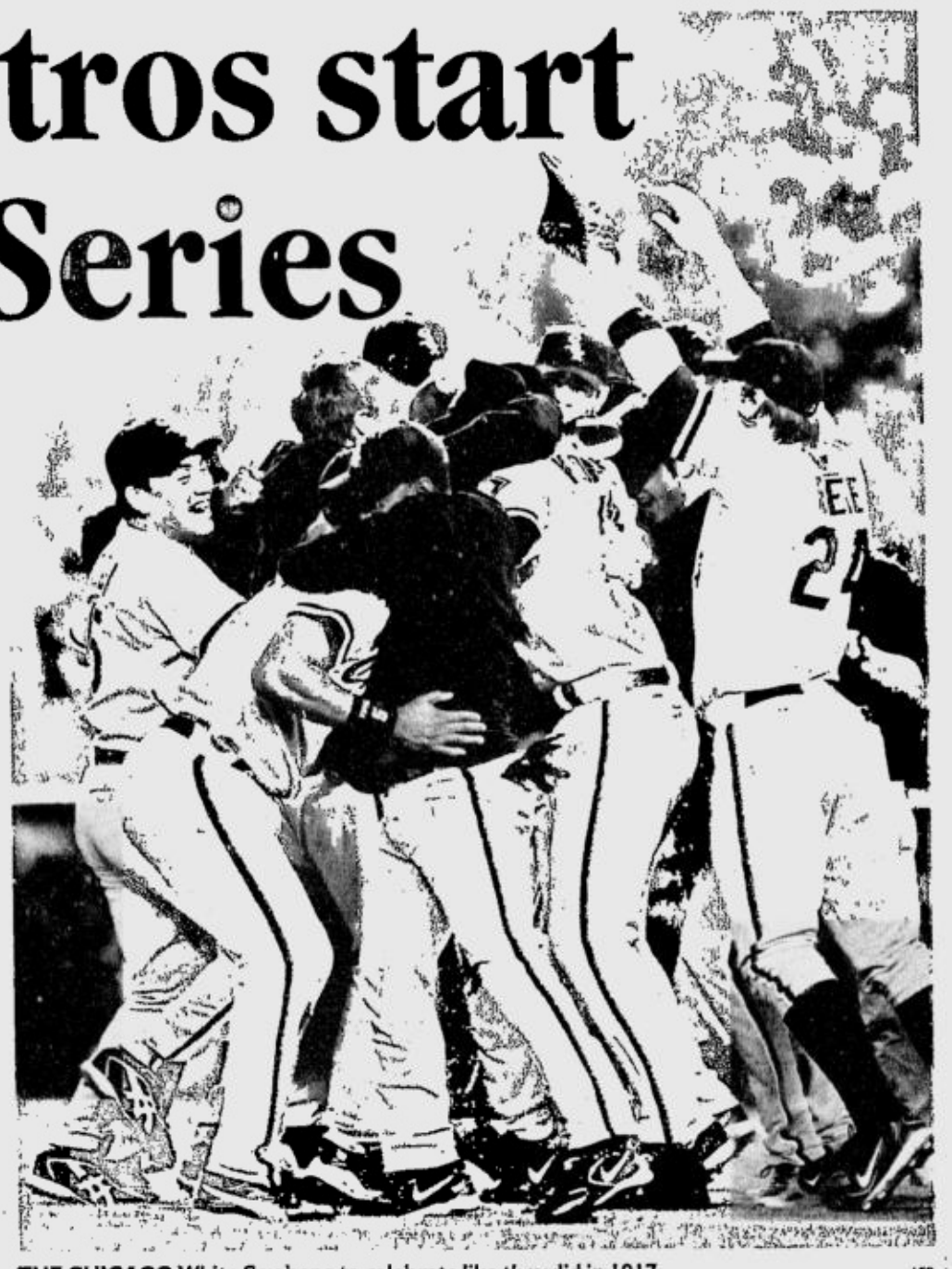
Given how good the pitching has been, there might be a 1917 feel to the game. The White Sox and New York Giants combined for just three home runs in that year's Series.

Chicago's rotation of Jose Contreras, Mark Buehrle, Jon Garland and Freddy Garcia famously pitched four straight complete games to beat the Los Angeles Angels in the AL championship series, the first quartet to finish their starts consecutively in a postseason series since the 1956 New York Yankees. They were so good, Guillen is keeping them in the same order against the Astros.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner who led the major leagues in ERA this year, will be followed by Andy Pettitte and Roy Oswalt, giving the Astros a formidable trio. Brandon Backe starts against Garcia in Game 4.

His starters were so good against the Angels that the bullpen was needed for just two outs—the lowest total in a postseason series since Sandy Koufax & Co.'s Los Angeles Dodgers swept the Yankees in the 1963 World Series, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"A lot of people counted us out before spring training even started," Garland said. "We already were written off in a lot of people's books." *AP*



THE CHICAGO White Sox hope to celebrate like they did in 1917. AFP

HSBC INVITATIONAL: Close to 200 HSBC *Premier* and corporate customers joined the bank's invitational golf tournament at the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands recently. The tournament staked handsome prizes, including a trip to Shanghai to watch Tiger Woods and the world's other top golfers compete in the HSBC Champions Tournament, which offers $5 million in cash prizes—the biggest prize pot ever in Asia. HSBC CEO Warner Manning (third from left) led the ceremonial tee-off, together with National Treasurer Omar Cruz, Aboitiz Equity Ventures COO Erramon Aboitiz and Benguet Corp. president Philip Romualdez.

Murakami, Tambunting lift La Salle golfers to early lead

BAGUIO CITY—PRO-BOUND ARTEMIO MUrakami teamed up with Justin Tambunting to pull off a big victory right in the opening foursomes and spark a rousing start by La Salle in the morning matches of the first round yesterday of the Ateneo-La Salle Match Play 2005 at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

Murakami, a cinch to make it to the country's Southeast Asian Games team this December, blended well with the young Tambunting to clinch a point for La Salle with a 2-and-1 triumph over Louie Dacudao and Mari Hechanova.

La Salle won four of the first six foursome matches and it could have been more lopsided had the Ateneans not salvaged two matches on the last hole.

The fiery La Salle start erased bitter memories of its disappointing first day at Sherwood Hills last year when it dropped five of the first six matches and eventually lost the showdown to Ateneo.

La Salle's youth brigade provided the crucial points for their team with Terence Macatangay and Miko Alejandro scoring a 6-and-5 rout of Venjo Reyes-Joel Opaco and Miko Yee helping partner Raffy Garcia dominate Benjie Sarmiento-Jeric Hechanova, 3 and 1.

King Stehmeier and Louie Garcia won over Anthony Fernando-Marty Ilagan for La Salle's fourth point in the tournament presented by SMART Communications.

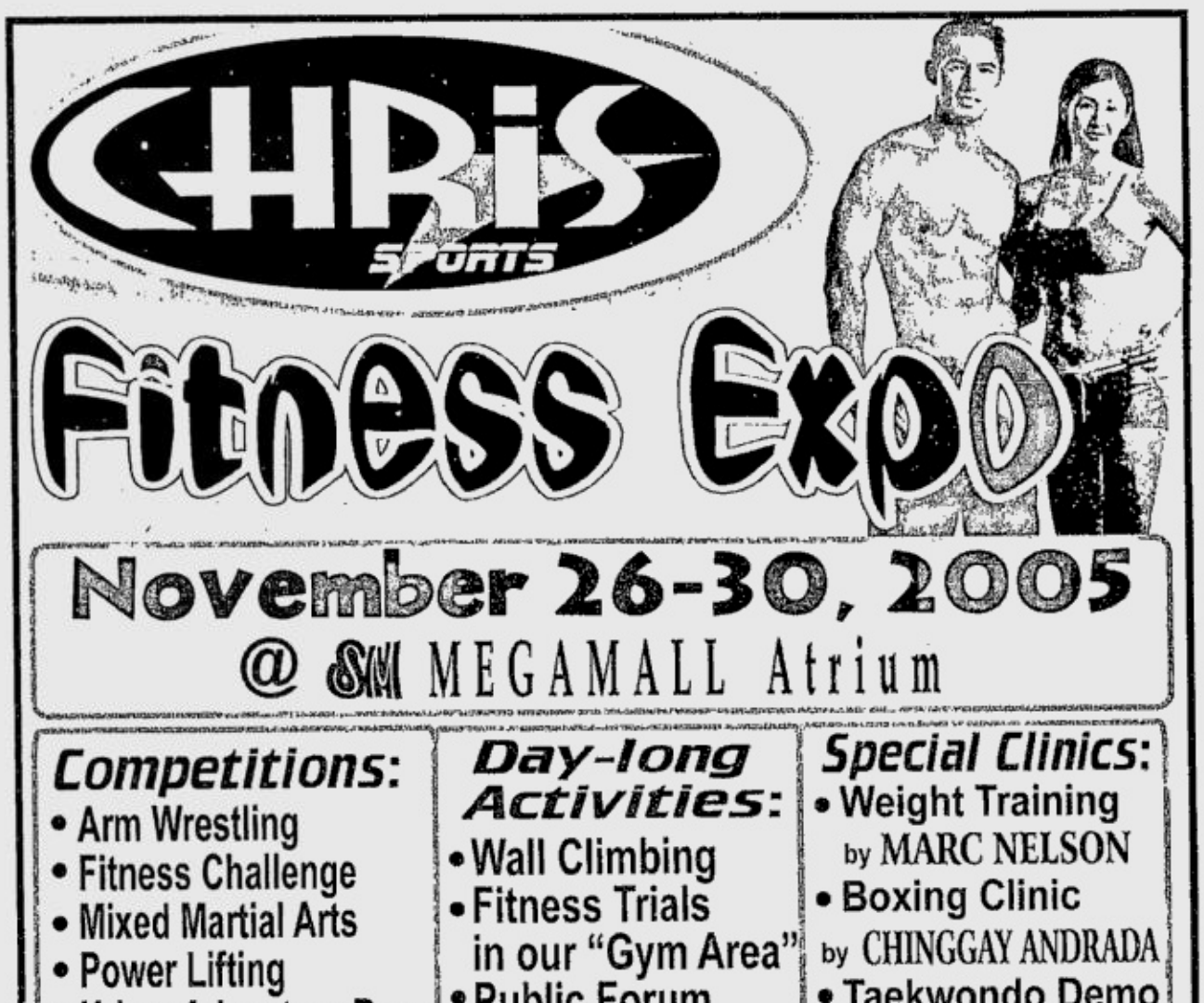
Other sponsors of the event are PLDT, Nokia, Camp John Hay Golf Club, CJH Development Co., CJH Manor, Golforce, Gainers Marketing, Pisanti, Kork, Le Chef, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Club Leisure Management Corp.

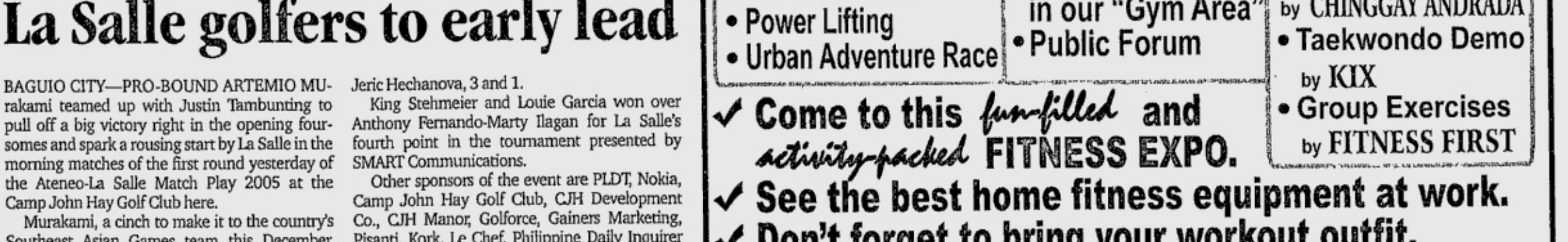
The tandems of Iggy Clavecilla-Jingy Tuason and Jovi Neri-Jun Jun Plana won their respective matches for Ateneo, avoiding what could have been a harrowing shutout for the defending champions.

Clavecilla-Tuason beat Francis Gaston-JP Reyes while Plana and the Cebu-based Neri turned back Raymund Sangil-Bobby Celestino.

Six more matches were played yesterday afternoon, with the format shifting to alternate shots today. The deciding singles matches on the third day feature all 18 players from each side.

Camp John Hay chair and tournament host Bob Sobrepeña said the tightly contested matches showed that both sides really prepared long and hard for the competition.





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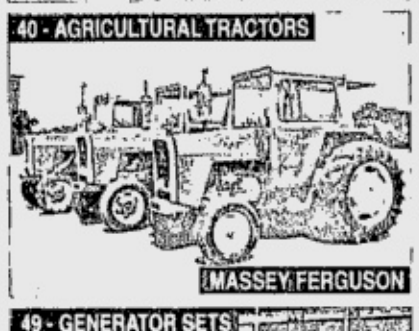
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SPORTS

THE GAMES ON HIS SHOULDERS
With 36 days to go before the first acid test of his term as president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chief Jose Cojuangco Jr. takes a break from hectic Games preparations and finds solace in the silence of the historic Rizal Memorial Track and Field Stadium, main venue of the 23rd SEAG, in Manila.

Hurting Django halts giant-killer Sibuco

FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAMANTE shrugged off a hurting right elbow to stop the giant-killing run of Edgardo Sibuco, 9-4, and move within a win of a semifinal seat in the Philippine 9-Ball Open yesterday at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall.

Playing cautiously, Bustamante set aside his patented powerful break but still managed to run out four racks against Sibuco, who had earlier beaten heavyweights Ramil Gallego and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam.

"I got this injury in the US," Bustamante, the former world No. 1, said in Filipino.

After running out his first two breaks, Bustamante took a frame off Sibuco's turn to set the tone for the rout.

Bustamante will next face the winner between Alex Pagulayan and Dennis Orcollo.

Reigning San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour Manila leg champion Ronnie Alcano also stopped the winning ways of Mario Tolentino, 9-5.

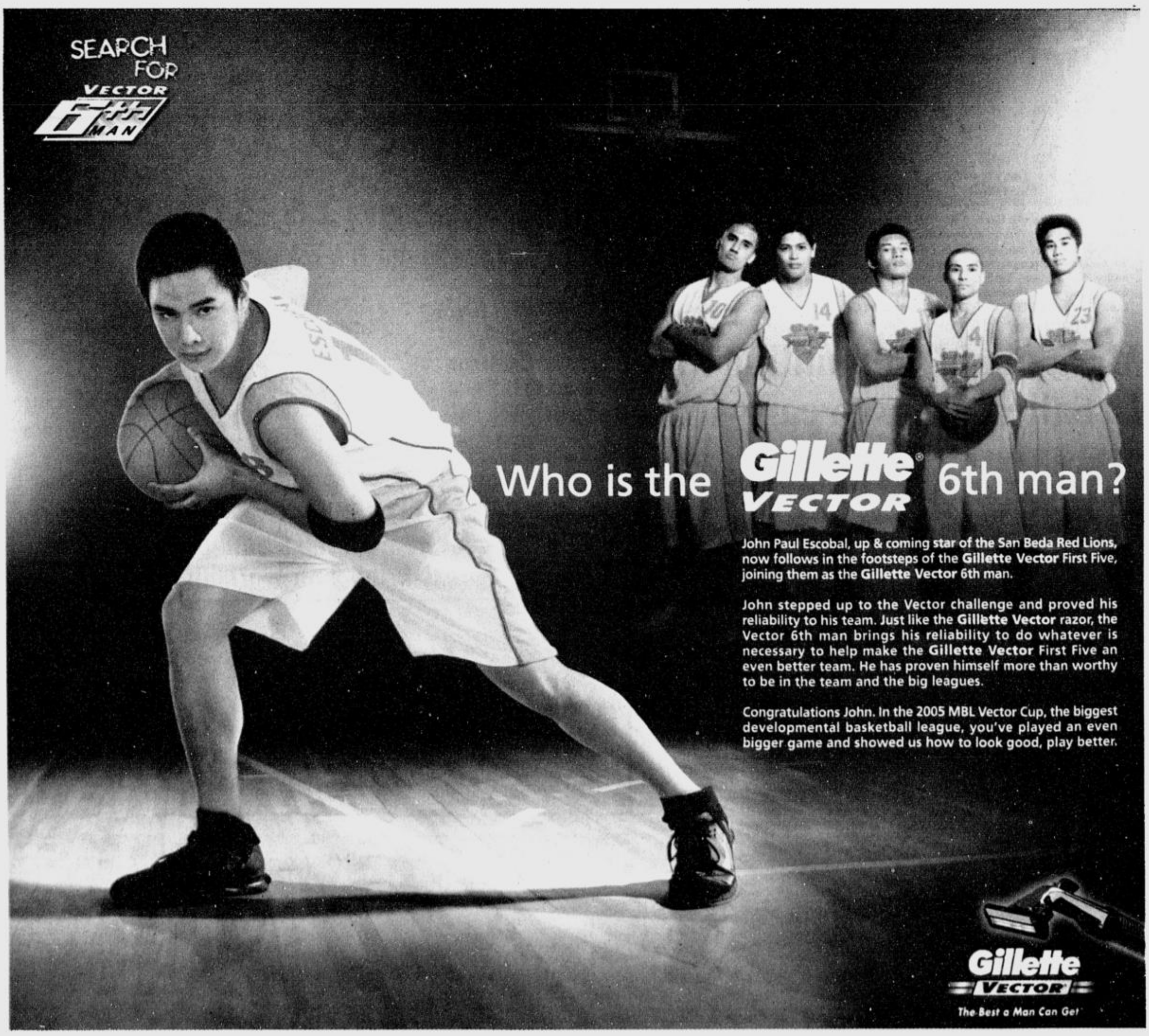
Tolentino, easily the tournament's biggest revelation, had earlier hurdled Efren "Bata" Reyes and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat in succession.

Alcano jumped the gun on Tolentino and didn't let him recover.

Jeffrey "Jeff Bata" de Luna forged a fourth round match with Alcano after routing defending champion Antonio Gabica, 9-3.

De Luna, considered by many as the next important cue artist in the country, was flawless with his breaks and pocketing against Gabica.

The only chink on his armor, according to Pagulayan, is his penchant for slow play.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Special

A2-1

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

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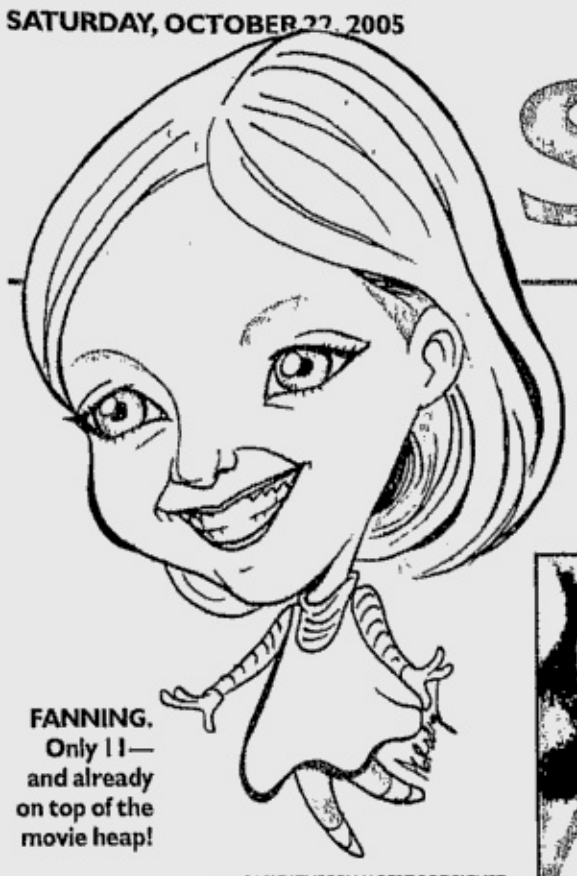
Dakota Fanning is film world's biggest female star



FANNING. Only 11—and already on top of the movie heap!

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Nestor U. Torre

WHO'S THE MOST POPULAR international female film star today? If you answered Julia Roberts, Angelina Jolie or Jennifer Lopez, you'd be wrong. Big surprise: The top female movie actress is—Dakota Fanning!

That's quite a shocker, because Dakota is only 11 years old, and has been acting for the movie cameras for only a few years (her first stellar appearance, at seven years old, was in 2001's "I Am Sam," as the daughter of a retardate played by Sean Penn.

And yet, in the span of only five years, Dakota's movies have grossed a total of $600 M—that's big bucks even for superstars! In addition, the popular child actress has co-starred with some of the biggest stars in the business—Charlize Theron in "Trapped," Reese Witherspoon in "Sweet Home Alabama," Mike

DAKOTA/ A2-2

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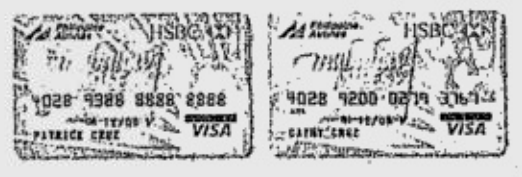

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Significant comeback for Mon David in 'Life and Times'

By Rito P. Asilo

THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN YOUR FAVORITE record bar, make sure you grab a copy of Mon David's latest album, "Life and Times," a 15-track collection of jazz tunes and ballads that features the talented crooner's adept songwriting skills.

DAVID. Musical tapestry.

David's collection of mostly self-penned tunes consists of a welcome array of songs that underscores the dearth of local jazz music, a genre that has seen better times in the '70s and '80s, when the likes of Bong Peñera and Jacqui Magno came up with sumptuous concoctions of distinctly *Pinoy*-flavored jazz.

Fusion and pop

These days, the country's top jazz vocalists headed by the likes of Lynn Sherman have learned to diversify into fusion and pop. But, local jazz music is now a rarity in the recording scene. Mon somehow tips the balance by recording beautiful tunes that don't just impress with their interpreter's skill and technique, but also with his soulful, interpretive integrity.

His collaboration with different musicians enables the singer to come up with a musical tapestry that showcases his strengths— from crooning to scatting—as a vocalist. Bond Samson, for example, manages to show David's playful side with his rousing arrangement for album opener, "Let Go," while Gary Granada's songs ("Lifetime," "I Had a Dream") aptly display the balladeer's deep baritone.

On top of our list: "Do'n sa Brazil," an infectious, samba-flavored ditty that fuses Dix Lucero's sax and flute with Mon's deft handling of instruments (like *udu* drums, shakers) that are seldom heard in pop music; "Atin Ku Pung Singsing," a jazz rendering of the *Kapampangan* classic; "I Listen to You," the singer's musical collaboration with wife, Ann; "Kailan Pa Kundi Ngayon"; the lilting "Being Real"; and "Gabay," Mon's duet with his equally talented daughter, Nicole.

Loving father

"Gabay" is a song about a loving father's promise to a daughter, who's about to embark on her own journey in life. Musically, the vocal quality of the duo may be poles apart, but they blend beautifully as they sing their promise to each other:

He says: *"Patuloy kitang susubaybayan, ipagdarasal, aalalayan. Pagkatandaan, pagibig sa puso'y huwag hayaang maglaho. Ito'y magsisilbing gabay upang mapasaiyo ang tagumpay..."*

She answers: *"Huwag mag-alala, naiintindihan kita. Lahat ng bilin mo'y tatandaan. Di matatakot, ako'y pumalaot, pagkat alam kong nariyan ka, laging magmamahal at gagabay upang makamit ko ang tagumpay."* Beautiful.

Toti Fuentes fights on—and inspires

By Nestor U. Torre

SHOW BIZ DENIZENS WHO MEET MUSICian extraordinaire Toti Fuentes invariably feel both chastened and inspired.

Chastened, because Toti's fortitude in the face of the cancer that he has battled for almost three years is a quiet indictment of their own petulant weakness when confronted with adversity.

And inspired, because unlike other grievously sick people who simply curl up and die, Toti refuses to allow despair to pull him under. In fact, he has even launched new missions and initiatives that would exhaust his healthier colleagues.

Sick children

For instance, he has staged a series of benefit concerts to raise funds for his foundation, which focuses on helping sick children.

To thank his many donors, he's come up with two new albums featuring a number of similarly generous musical artists. They include Montet Acoymo, Manolet Garcia, Alma Concepcion, Ricky Davao, Chiqui Roa-Puno, Allan Mirasol, Flexi Sarte, Richard Signey and Fr. Joseph Skelton Jr.

Toti's latest fundraising gambit, "An Evening with Toti Fuentes," is a special concert on Oct. 26 at Pryce Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City. The concert is special because Toti is a Xavier University alumnus, and a native of Mindanao's gateway City of Gold.

The last time we talked to Toti, he admitted that he was in pain. But, he had gotten so used to the debilitating sensation that he simply ignored it, and went on to talk about everything under the sun—except his illness.

FUENTES. Fundraising concert in Cagayan de Oro City.

When we pressed him to share some details related to it, he confessed that he had had a particularly rough time some months ago in the States, and wasn't sure if he would survive. But, he did weather that medical mega-storm, and took the close shave as a remainder to make full use of each and every day he had, in the service of others. We should all learn that lesson, too—and live by it!

Filipino musicians hold Toti in high regard because of his talent, experience, generosity and humility. They marvel at how he's managed to stay so grounded, despite his impressive successes in the States, where he's worked with a lot of name performers. How does he do it?

Vulnerable

Toti's answer is simple, and cuts to the quick: After you've stared death in the face, you realize how small and vulnerable you are, and that all of your so-called achievements aren't of your own making, but God's gifts to you—which you must make sure to share with others.

Sydney Greenstreet was malevolence personified

By Behn Cervantes

TO ME, THE EPITOME OF MALEVOLENCE was Sydney Greenstreet. He was born in Sandwich, England in 1879. He was the adventurous son of a leather merchant who went to Ceylon at 18 to make a fortune as a tea planter, only to return to his native England to manage a brewery before he decided to try acting. He specialized in nefarious roles.

He made his debut in 1902 as a murderer in "Sherlock Holmes." He then went to the United States, where he made his Broadway debut in "Everyman."

Interestingly, despite—or because of—his awesome stage presence, he was cast in productions that ranged from Shakespeare to musical comedy.

Auspicious beginning

Hollywood discovered him and cast the 300-pound actor in John Huston's masterpiece, "The Maltese Falcon," starring Humphrey Bogart. It was an auspicious beginning for Greenstreet, because not only did he receive an Academy Award nomination for his performance in the film, he was consequently included in Hollywood's Rogues' Gallery, along with co-star Peter Lorre.

GREENSTREET. Master schemer.

He became the staple villain in Warner Bros.' melodramas, but he was always the master schemer, a notch above the gnome-like Lorre.

When paired together, however, they matched each other perfectly. Lorre was small and slight, with a tendency toward hysteria, while Greenstreet was urbane and dangerous.

Impressive

His silky smooth kind of evil was at once impressive as it was frightfully dangerous. Given his size and his thin, dark eyes, there was no way you wouldn't notice him!

An ordinary scene became important and vital because of his mere presence. There was no way you would look at anybody else when Greenstreet employed his unique brand of malevolence!

Dakota Fanning . . . From page A2-1

Myers in "The Cat in the Hat" Brittany Murphy in "Uptown Girls," Denzel Washington in "Man on Fire," Robert De Niro in "Hide and Seek," and Tom Cruise in "War of the Worlds."

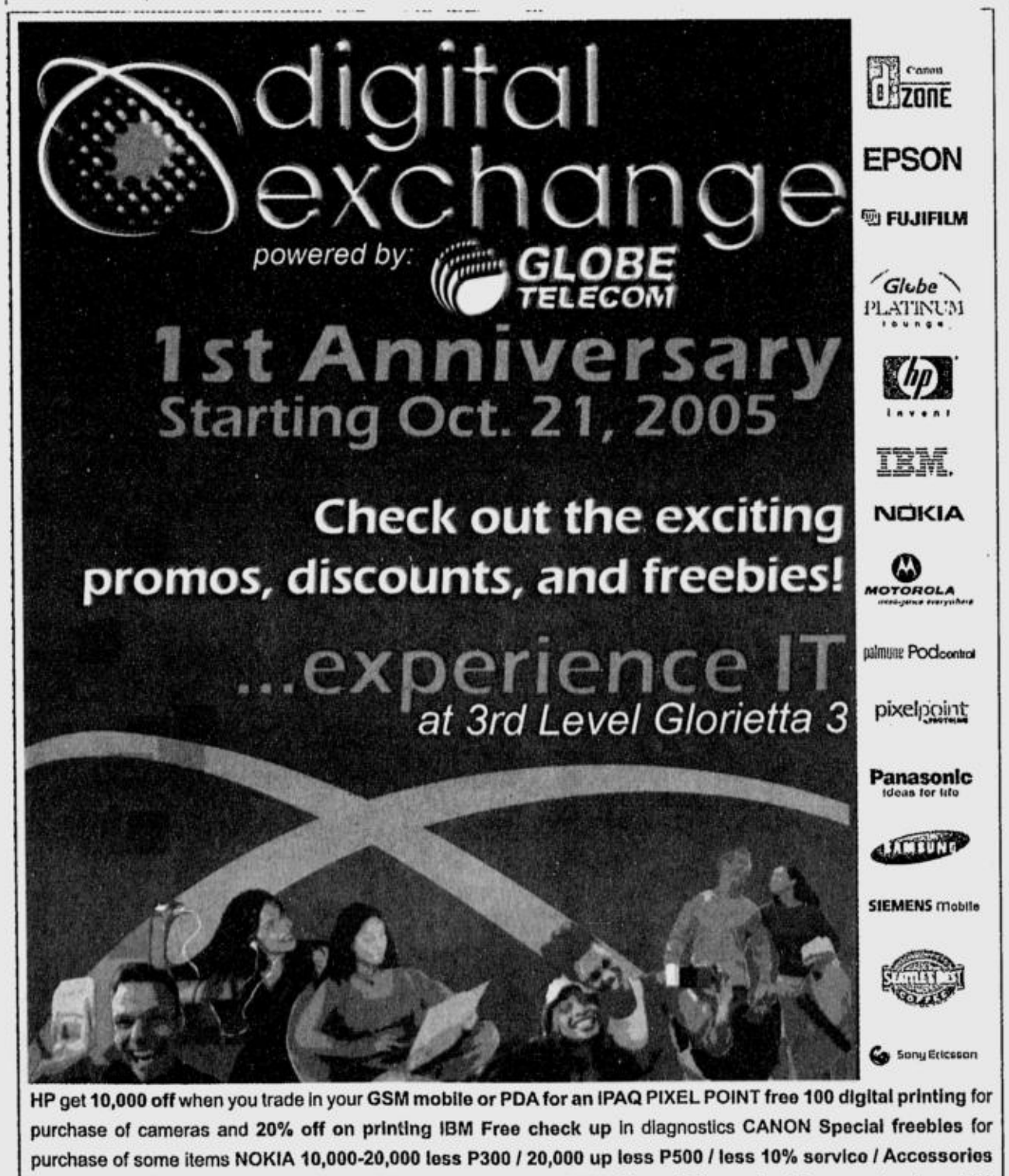
Dakota's latest starrer is "Dreamers," an inspiring film about horseracing, where she costars with Kurt Russell. Echoing the admiration that's been heaped on Dakota by her adult costars, Russell raves that little Ms. Fanning is "the best actor I've ever worked with, period!"

Dakota has become so popular that we could hail her as this generation's Shirley Temple. Like little Ms. Fanning, the '30s curly-topped moppet was the US films' top box-office draw, and was even awarded a pint-sized honorary Oscar for her many screen achievements.

But, what happens when Dakota turns 13? Traditionally, child stars have had to take a break from the movies, before they reemerge as teen stars. Will that happen to Dakota?

Fan base

Our bet is that Dakota will do a Daniel Radcliffe ("Harry Potter") and go from child to adolescent to teen star in full view of the movie camera. Her fan base has become so big that it should profitably support her through her upcoming awkward years. Given Dakota's precocious maturity, even those years shouldn't be as awkward as they are for other former child stars.



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'The Apprentice's' fourth season gets down and dirty

By Noelani Torre

YOU GET TO MEET SOME TRULY horrible people on "The Apprentice." If you want to see what greed and ambition can do to an already successful and well-educated person, just tune in to this show.

Eclectic mix

It's "The Apprentice's" fourth season, and things are a little different this time around. Donald Trump himself picked all 18 contestants, and it's a fairly eclectic mix.

"For the first time, I hand-picked the cast, and I'm thrilled with the results," says Trump.

The contestants' ages range from 22 to 41. There are two former beauty queens-turned-entrepreneurs, a risk manager, a salon and spa chain owner, a realtor, an inventor, a financial journalist, an investment banker, a

TRUMP. Picked the reality show's 18 contestants.

former NFL player, and several executives. Probably half of them are already millionaires in their own right, and several have degrees from academic institutions like Georgetown, Oxford, MIT and Wharton. One guy even has five academic degrees!

No matter how diverse their backgrounds and current professions, however, they have two things in common—they're all successful *and* they all want to be even more so!

Also, this season, one important rule has been modified: The teams' project managers are no longer automatically exempt from getting axed—their teammates have to vote whether they deserve exemption.

This only serves to ante up the pressure on the candidates. Now, the project manager not only has to lead his team to victory, he has to be popular as well. This will no doubt lead to more interesting developments in the future as more and more people are weeded out.

Intelligent people

The season has just begun, and backbiting and cat-fighting already abound! Sometimes, watching "The Apprentice" can be depressing, especially when supposedly intelligent people start acting like preschoolers with a Me, Myself and I fixation. You'll see the American individualistic ideal—at its best and worst! The candidates' ambition and innovative thinking are admirable, but when the "every man for him" mindset kicks in, they start looking real ugly.

This is one of the reasons why "The Apprentice" was last year's top-rated TV show. We watch it not just for the boardroom suspense, but also for the chance to see smart folk getting down and dirty!

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What is IPD?

IPD or Invasive Pneumoccocal Disease is a fatal disease caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*. It could take your child within 48 hours. IPD could come in the form of bacteremia, meningitis, bacteremic pneumonia or sepsis. All are equally life-threatening.

Who are susceptible to it?

Children 2 years and below are most likely to contract IPD. In fact, 90% of its victims are below 5 years old, 78% of whom are below 2 years of age. The younger the victim, the more fatal the disease is.

How can my child contract it?

IPD is an airborne disease and is thus contracted by just being near an infected person. A cough or sneeze may infect your child.

What are its symptoms?

The first signs of IPD start out as coughs and colds which then lead to high fever and eventually, to shock. Complications include infection of the intestines and vomiting. In severe cases, your child may fall into a coma and die after 48 hours.

How fatal is it?

More than a million children die of IPD every year. What makes the Traitor Disease so dangerous is that it can remain undetected until it's too late. By the time you realize your child has it, he usually has only 48 hours left to live. If he does survive, he can suffer severe brain damage that can lead to retardation.

Is there a cure?

The only known treatment for IPD is antibiotics, but these do not ensure that your child will survive. In fact, very few survive the complications that result from IPD, even with antibiotics. The only real solution is prevention.

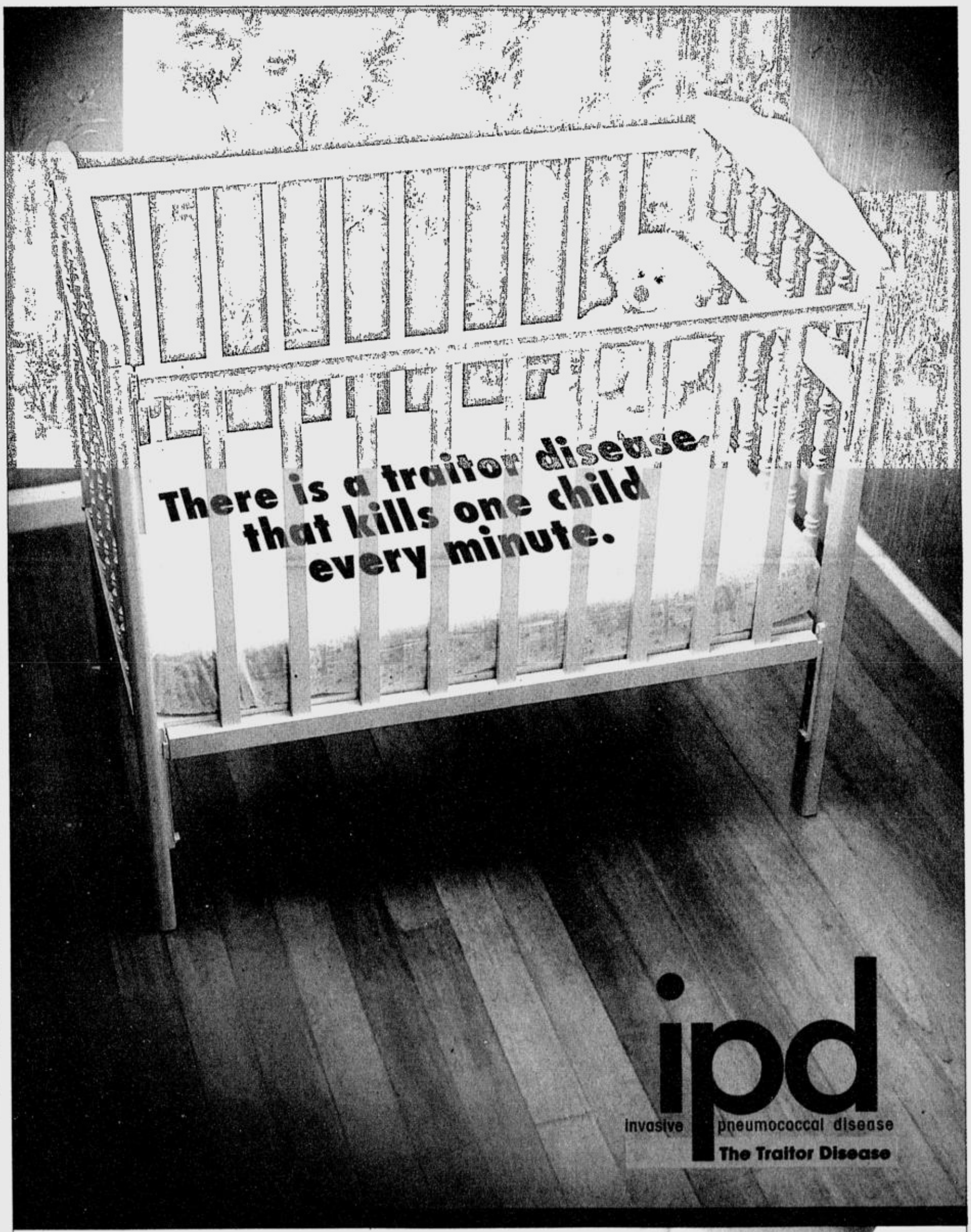
How can it be prevented?

Mercifully, there is a vaccine available to fight this dreaded disease, but it should be administered at an early age to make it more effective. Ask your doctor about it. The earlier you know, the better you can protect your child.

ipd
invasive pneumococcal disease

Ask your doctor about it.

Wyeth



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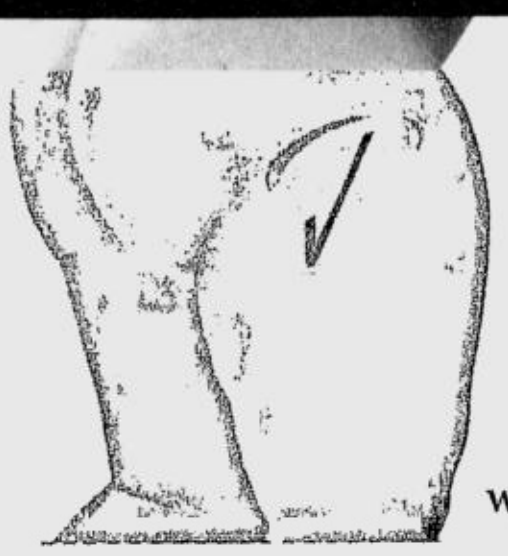
Mercifully, there is a way to prevent this traitor from striking your baby. Ask your pediatrician about the IPD vaccine. The sooner you know, the sooner you can protect your child.



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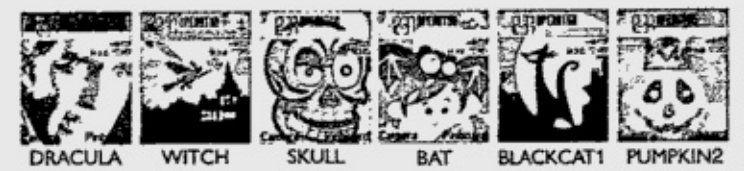

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SATURDAY Special

Martha Stewart is tough, petulant on 'Apprentice'

STEWART. Relative subjectivity.

By Nestor U. Torre

WE MADE IT A POINT TO catch the first telecast of Martha Stewart's "Apprentice" show on ABC-5 at 10 p.m. last Tuesday, Oct. 18, to see what made it different from Donald Trump's original version.

The two shows are interesting to compare, because Trump and Stewart come across as very different kinds of business people—Trump seems to be more no-nonsense, while Stewart is all heart.

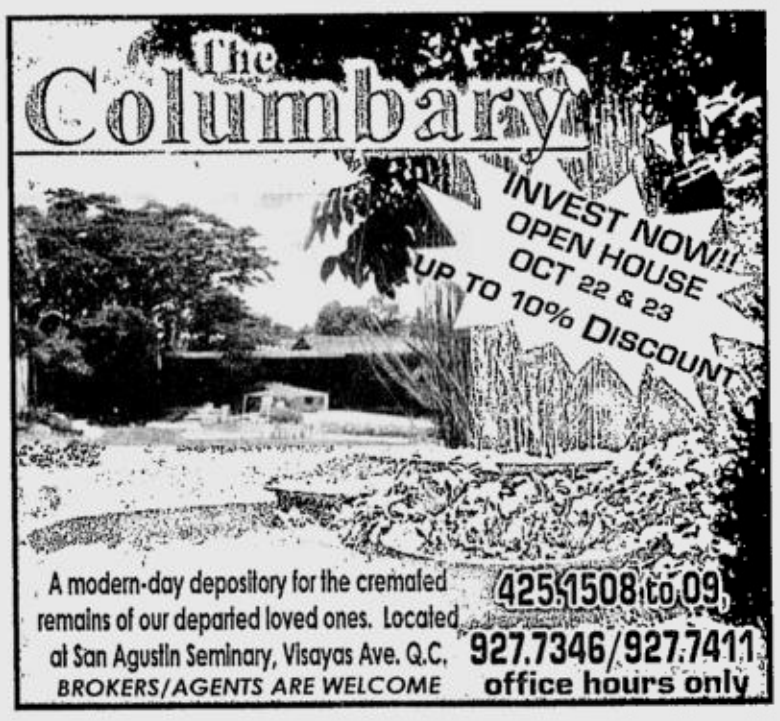
Initial impression

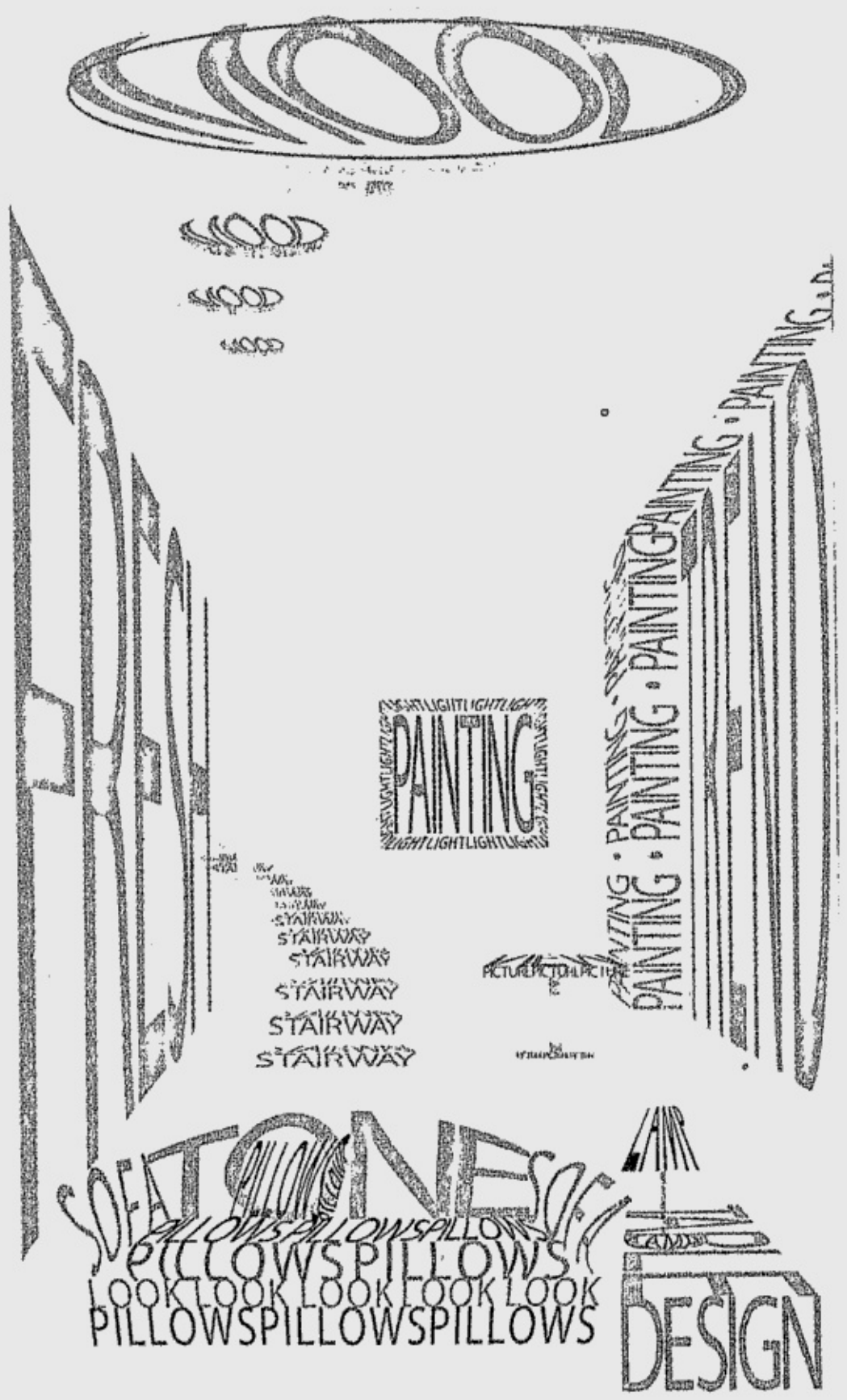
That initial impression is borne out by Stewart's projection in her show, and that's all to the good. But, it also has a negative consequence: Her relative subjectivity makes it more difficult for her show's contestants to figure out her standards for choosing one team over another.

So, last Tuesday, Martha's would-be apprentices had their work cut out for them trying to second-guess her preferences in relation to the first task at hand: For each of the two teams to come up with a children's story book, which would then be read to a small audience of kids, to see which one they preferred.

Stewart did offer a guideline: Success in her

MARTHA/ A3-2





Final 'Rockin Comedy' performance

MONTAGE

THE EXTENDED RUN OF MITCH VALDES' hit show, "A Rockin' Comedy," at the Mandarin's Captain's Bar ends tonight. If you haven't seen it yet, do go out of your way to catch the show, so you can laugh along with Mitch as she cracks topical jokes about mid-life crisis, cosmetic surgery, men, and life in general. And she sings up a storm, too!

ETHEL Cornejo (second from left) and Wilma Labadnog (third from left) hobnobbed with MTV VJs Utt and Denise.

MTV Credit cardholders in Singapore

Lucky MTV Credit cardholders flew to Singapore recently and hobnobbed with MTV VJs Denise and Utt.

With MTV freebies in hand, they also explored the city, enjoying must-see spots like Merlion Park, Chinatown and Mt. Faber. They were accompanied by Equitable CardNetwork's Frances Cuenca and MTV Philippines' Etta Mettina.

These cool prizes are just some of the perks cardholders stand to enjoy when they use their MTV Credit Card.

Pre-Halloween party at Dreamscape

This Sunday, Oct. 23, take your whole family to Dreamscape at Robinsons Galleria from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and enjoy a pre-Halloween party with fun activities, games and prizes.

Wear your scariest or most colorful Halloween attires and try your luck in the costume contest. And kids, get ready with your loot bags and pumpkin baskets when the Trick or Treat Parade kicks off at 1 p.m. Call 636-2911 or 631-7329.

'Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo'

Fil-Am comedian Rob Schneider's new film, "Deuce Bigalow: American Gigolo," has opened at No. 1 in the country, grossing a stimulating P15.6 million at the box office from Oct.. 12 to 15. This breaks the P11.8 million opening of its predecessor, "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," and is the biggest local opening for a Rob Schneider starrer.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Oct. 22 at 11:45 a.m., "Out of Africa." 11:40 p.m., "Something's Gotta Give." Oct. 23 at 2 p.m., "For Richer or Poorer." Oct. 24 at 5:45 p.m., "Everyday People." Oct. 25 at 6 a.m., "Changing Lanes." Oct. 26 at 5:15 p.m., "Surviving Picasso."

On Cinemax, Oct. 22 at 10:45 p.m., "Against the Ropes." Oct. 23 at 5 :30 p.m., "A Soldier's Story." Oct. 24 at 7 p.m., "Pink Cadillac." Oct. 25 at 11 a.m., "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge." 5:45 p.m. "Hollywood Confidential." Oct. 26 at 2:15 p.m., "Bonnie and Clyde."

Martha . . . • From page A3-1

publishing business was built on the ability to connect, both with co-workers and the buying public. The group that lost was seen to have failed in this regard, since its leader didn't listen to his teammates, and came up with a "dark" fairy tale that didn't sit well with its audience of three and four-year-olds.

Aside from the first challenge's outcome, the episode was instructive because it showed the excessively competitive bent of quite a number of the contestants, and how it worked against their being chosen as the winning apprentice.

That was the ironic element in the show: That the overly and even compulsively determined contestants were being pushy in order to stand out, and yet, they were actually working against their own success by being so fiercely competitive.

Prospects

In the premiere episode, four excessively aggressive competitors turned viewers off. Instructively, one of them was the autocratic team leader who was booted out at the end of the show. This doesn't bode well for the other three pushy contestants' prospects of making it all the way to the end of the competition.

This early, it appears that Stewart is big on teamwork. So, her prospective apprentices are well advised to rein in their greedy, nasty impulses, and force themselves to work well together toward the same goal.

As for Stewart, she also needs to get her own act together, because the first telecast of her "Apprentice" show made her come off as rather vague and tough. While she isn't doing the show to win a popularity contest, she should work harder to imbue it—and herself—with a clearer identity.

We've watched Martha any number of times on the tube as she shared her tips on creative crafts and homemaking, and she's come across as quite warm and candid.

Projection

On "The Apprentice," however, her projection is harder and even a bit petulant. That can't be good for the program. Donald Trump may not be a great program host, but he at least comes through with succinct clarity. Martha Stewart can't afford to be less clear-cut.

Just one illustration of the difference in the two hosts' projection is the contrast in their final words to each week's defeated contestant: Trump snaps in no uncertain terms, "You're fired!," while Stewart can only simper, "You just don't fit in." Enough said.

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2 DOOM 11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END
MEGAMALL
1 DOOM 10:15FS/10:45MF/01:00/03:15/05:30/07:45 09:30LFS/10:00LMF/11:45END
6 DOOM 10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20/07:30 09:00LFS/09:40OLMF/11:20END
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2 DOOM 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 12:00FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END
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8 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
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11 WALLACE AND GROMIT
12 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 LORD OF WAR
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
7 DOOM
8 DUBAI
9 DEUCE BIGALOW
10 DARK WATER
11 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12 TRANSPORTER 2
SM MEGA NORTH EDSA
1 DOOM
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 DUBAI
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 LORD OF WAR
SM CITY MANILA
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 LORD OF WAR
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
6 DOOM
7 DUBAI
8 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
9 LAND OF THE DEAD
10 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
11 INTO THE BLUE
12 BROTHERS GRIMM
SM CITY STA MESA
1 DOOM
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 LAND OF THE DEAD
9 LORD OF WAR
10 TRANSPORTER 2
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 DOOM
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
7 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
8 DUNGEONS & DRAGON
9 TRANSPORTER 2
10 INTO THE BLUE
SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 DOOM
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
5 LORD OF WAR
6 DUBAI
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 DOOM
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 LORD OF WAR
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
SUPERCENTER ALABANG
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
2 DOOM
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 WALLACE & GROMIT
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 SABLAY KA NA PASAWAY KA PA
6 DUBAI
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 DOOM
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
5 DUBAI
6 LORD OF WAR
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
SM CITY MARINA
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 DOOM
SM CITY LUCENA
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM CITY MARIKINA
1 PERFECT CATCH
2 ONE MISSED CALL 2
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 PERFECT MAN
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 DUBAI
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 KING & I (STAGE PLAY)
2 DOOM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 PERFECT CATCH
5 BLADE OF ROSE
6 CONSTANT GARDENER
7 DUBAI
8 LORD OF WAR
SM CITY DAVAO
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 INTO THE BLUE
7 RESERVED
8 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
SM CITY DAVAO
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
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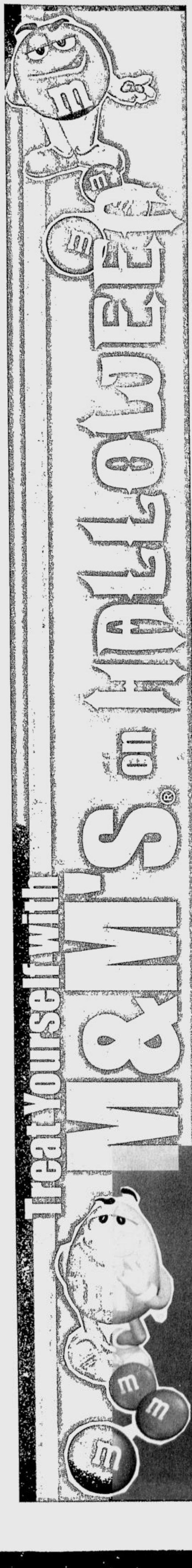
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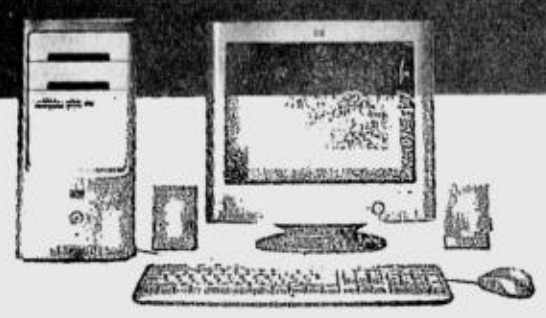

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'Caysasay' musical starts tour in Balayan, Batangas

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER ITS HIT RUN AT THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines earlier this year, Ryan Cayabyab's new religious musical, "Mapaghimalang Kamay ng Birhen ng Caysasay," is going on a performance tour of Luzon, with its provincial roadshow kicking off with a special performance at the CAP Auditorium in Balayan, Batangas on Oct. 30.

The performance is especially meaningful to composer Cayabyab, who traces his roots to Balayan, and to Lorenz Martinez, who plays Juan Maningcad, the fisherman who finds the Virgin's statue in his net. Lorenz's father, Leo Martinez, also comes from Balayan and is, in fact, Ryan's cousin.

Lead role

Also hailing from Batangas is Cocoy Laurel, who performs the musical's male lead role of Haybing, the Chinese stonemason who was miraculously brought back to life after his decapitation through the prayerful intercession of the Virgin of Caysasay.

"Birhen ng Caysasay" also stars Cheloy Dans, Tommy Abuel, Ivy Violan, Nicole David, Jane Diaz, Lou Veloso, Andy Bais and new child sensation Myka.

The musical has inspired the show's cast as well. In fact, Cheloy found her participation in the show so meaningful that she painted a new poster for the production (shown on this page).

Cheloy is a famous painter and art educator, so her decision to immortalize the "Birhen ng Caysasay" musical in a painting is deeply appreciated by everyone involved in the production, especially producer Ramon Orlina, a noted sculptor in his own right.

Generous gesture

Cheloy's loving and generous gesture exemplifies the special bond that links the musical's cast to the production and the centuries-old religious tradition that it dramatizes.

To prepare for the Oct. 30 performance, the production's creative and technical team has been rehearsing hard, and will drive up to Balayan on Oct. 29, a day before the show, for more rehearsals at the performance venue there. (Call Baby at 043 2114-252 or 0917 628-0626.)

If you want "Birhen ng Caysasay" performed in your locality, call Ramon Orlina at 781-5918 or 749-6439.

Other cast members include Karla Pambid, Nadja Matining, Jonas Santos, Marlon Capati, Roychelle Torre, Elijah Castillo, Roy Torre, Grace Castillo, Mon Floirendo and Perry Sapelino.

CAYABYAB. Traces roots to Balayan.

MARTINEZ. Plays Juan Maningcad.

DANS. Inspired to paint new poster for the production.

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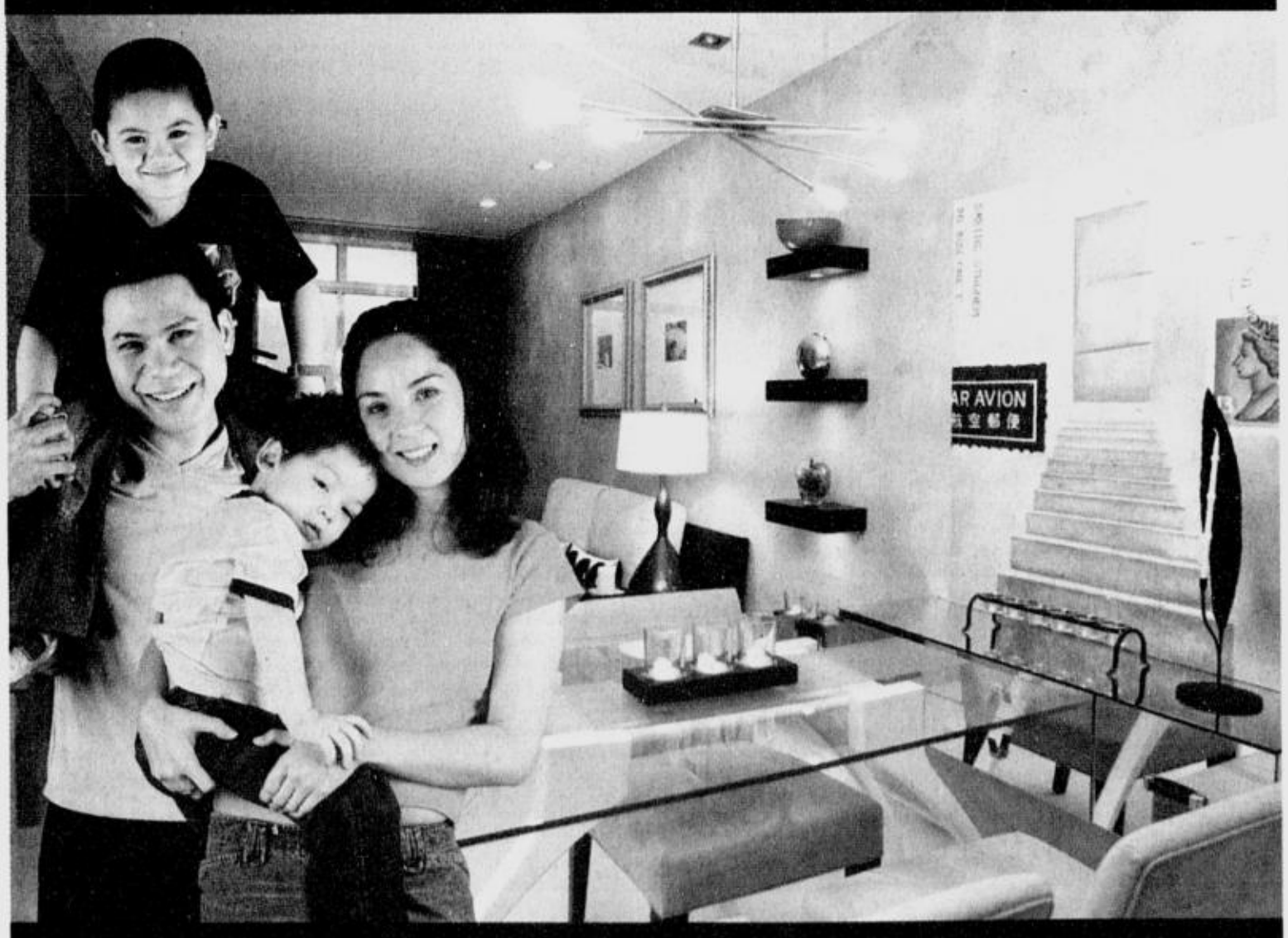

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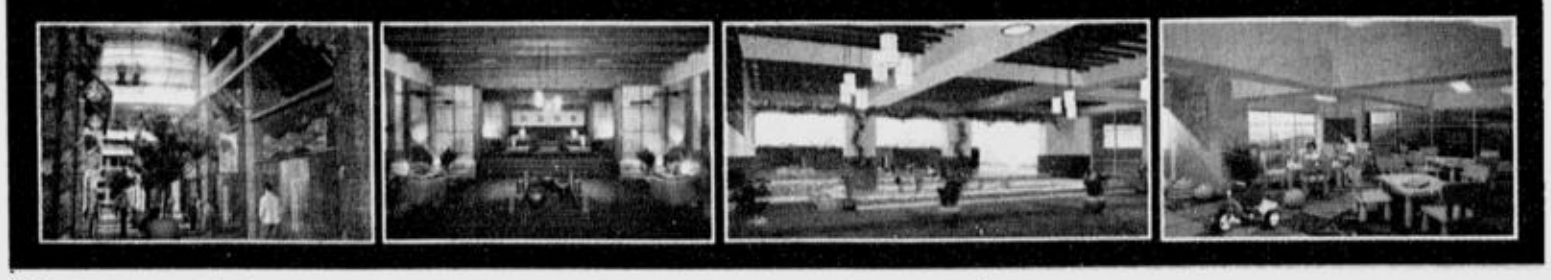

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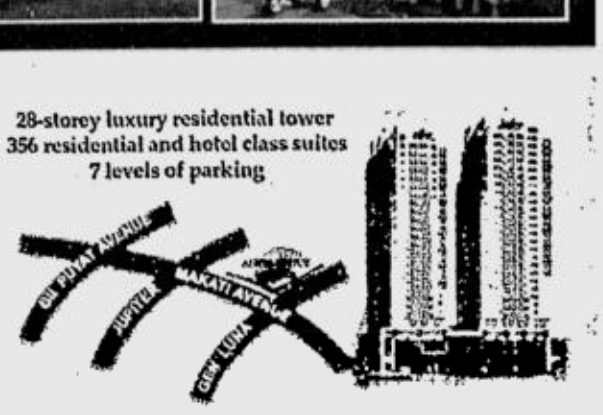

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LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE excerpts from the booklet, "Forgive and Be Forgiven," by Jagad Guru Siddhaswarupananda Paramahamsa. It talks about how we perceive people and relate to them:

Worthy

"As soon as we come out in this world, we judge people—whether we like them or not, whether we consider them worthy of our love. We love a person who serves and makes us happy.

"We think: 'I enjoy people serving me with love, loyalty and affection. In order to get it, I sometimes have to give things, too. I can get love if I give some love back. If they don't give me love, then I take my love back!'

"This is business, not love. Love is, 'I love you even though you hate me, and even though you are disloyal to me. I care about your well-being even though you don't care about mine.' *This* is love!"

Difficult

It's a difficult thing, because from the time we come into this world, we are conditioned to believe that it is easy to love and care about another person—as long as our love is not challenged.

Why does a person get angry with a spouse or friend? She says, "I'm angry because you don't love me enough. You are not worthy of my love. I'm going to put a barrier around my heart—and this coldness will be my response to you. I'm letting you know that you've been bad."

In this relationship, people share a conditional kind of love. They make each other suffer by not really loving.

Arrogance

But, by hearing and chanting the holy names of the Supreme, we taste the nectar of real love for the Supreme Beloved and his children. His holy names purify the heart from conditional life, and extinguish the fire of perverted enjoyment.

Tasting real love requires freedom from arrogance. The spiritualist feels worthy of whatever pain that comes to him, because he feels he's the most sinful.

You must forgive those who have offended you. You must give up resentment and get that giant load off your back. Forgiving must not be conditional. If you want to experience God's forgiveness, you must beg forgiveness from Him—and simultaneously, you must learn to forgive others.

SATURDAY Special

DOOLEY AND LAUTNER Lavagirl and Sharkboy, respectively.

NOW SHOWING

Heroes and reformist

FIENNES. Appropriately brooding.

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D"

D: Robert Rodriguez
S: Taylor Lautner, Taylor Dooley

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ ("SIN City," "El Mariachi") resumes his fascination with 3-D technology, after 2003's "Spy Kids 3-D," in this visually stunning children's tale—dreamed up and conceived by the director's seven-year-old son—about Max (Cayden Boyd), a 10-year-old fourth grader whose world is turned upside down when characters from his dreams suddenly come to life.

For Max, life is no picnic: He is endlessly bullied at school. But, with his parents (David Arquette and Kristin Davis) constantly bickering, life at home doesn't offer any solace, either. So, he retreats to a dream world, where superheroes (Sharkboy, Lavagirl, the Ice Princess) and villains (Mr. Electric, Minus) fight the neverending battle between good and evil—and where the good guys always emerge victorious. But, what happens when cynicism and the harsh realities of life start to erode his idealized world?

Max faces this dilemma when Sharkboy (Taylor Lautner) and Lavagirl (Taylor Dooley) emerge from a raging tornado to seek his assistance to restore order on Planet Drool, a celestial body that contains all of Max's dreams, conjured up from his imagination.

If the pre-pubescent trio doesn't stop the malevolent forces of Mr. Electric (George Lopez) and Minus (Jacob Davich), Planet Drool will collapse in 45 minutes—along with Max's dreams!

Like most dreams, however, not everything about the movie makes sense (the powers of its protagonists are sketchy, at best). And the film's palette of lush, bright colors and its special-effects savvy sometimes overwhelm its thin, straightforward narrative. But, the young and the young-at-heart have much to enjoy in this simple, heartwarming movie.

Played out like a modern-day fairy tale, the movie underscores the importance of nurturing dreams *and* working toward achieving them—because dreams don't come true on their own. As one character suggests: "You have to dream with your eyes open!"

"Luther"

D: Eric Till
S: Joseph Fiennes

In "Luther," Joseph Fiennes plays a different kind of hero—one who bats for religious reforms by squaring off against the zealots, sycophants and fundamentalists of his time.

Eric Till's provocative film bio on Martin Luther (Fiennes), the 16th-century visionary priest who was charged with heresy after challenging the hierarchy of the Catholic Church for its abusive practices, is long on historical exposition and short on dramatic tension.

And the movie is bogged down by its stultifying penchant for presenting its characters in stereotypical black-and-white shadings—the good guys are good, and the bad guys are sinister! But, the production is engrossing in terms of relevance and narrative ambition, and on point of performance (Fiennes is appropriately brooding and empathetic).

Luther argued that he wasn't merely muckraking. He simply couldn't reconcile the edicts

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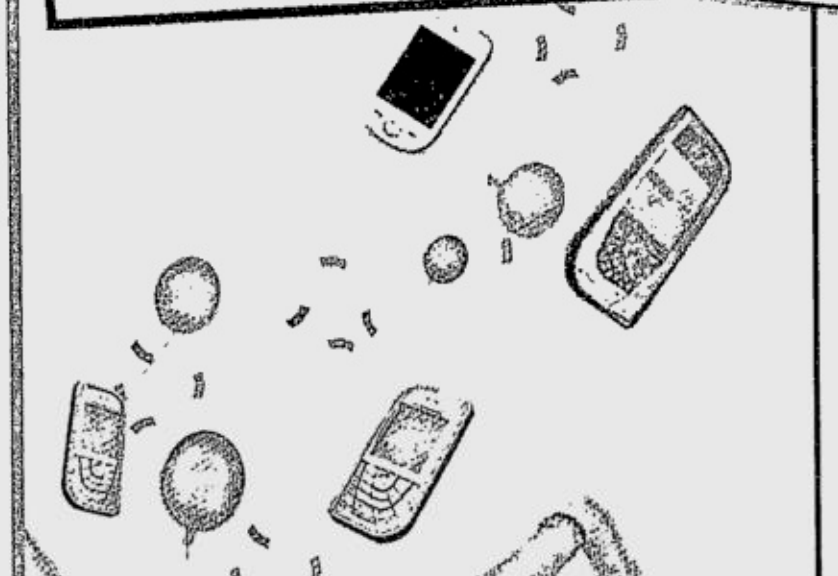

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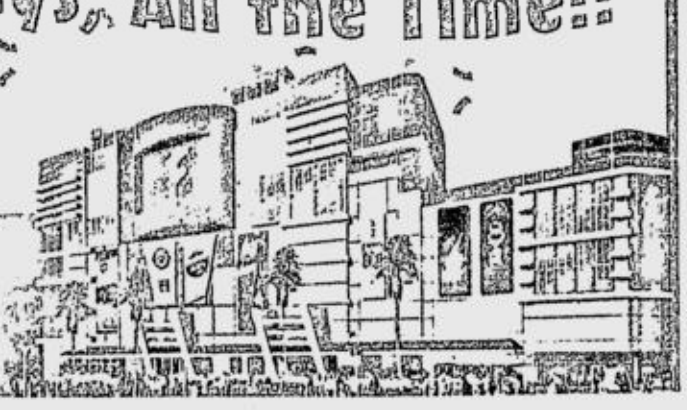

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6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:00 2:25 5:05 7:45 10:00

2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 WALLACE AND GROMIT
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

3 LORD OF WAR
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

8 DOOM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

9 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 MASAHISTA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

10 INTO THE BLUE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA (536-7808 to 12)

1 DOOM
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

2 MASAHISTA
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10 10:00

5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
10:30 12:15 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

6 ILUSYON 11:00 1:10 3:20
MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN
5:50 7:50 9:50

4 LORD OF WAR
10:10 12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 10:00

7 THE ADVENTURES OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST (892-8193 to 892-8199)

1 LORD OF WAR
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:05

5 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:20

2 DOOM
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

3 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY AND LAVAGIRL
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 WALLACE AND GROMIT
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

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12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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1 WILD SIDE
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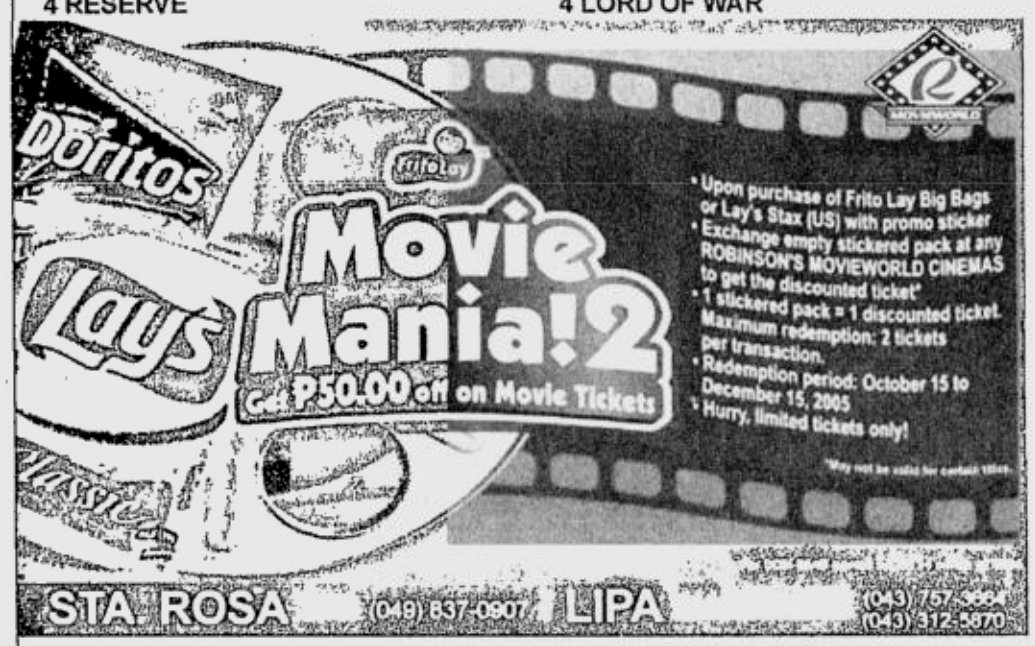
2 DOOM
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 LORD OF WAR



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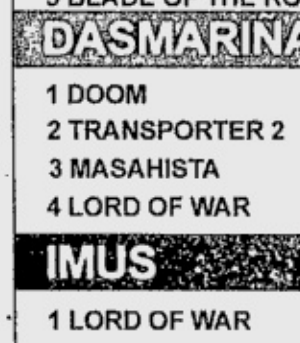
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2



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G4 GLORIETTA 4

1 ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL	2 WALLACE & GROMIT	3 THX LORD OF WAR 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
4 LUTHER	5 INTO THE BLUE	6 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO	7 THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1 DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO 12:25, 2:25, 4:25, 6:25, 8:25	2 CINEMANILA For more details call, 750-4180 TO 81

GB3 GREENBELT 3

1 THX ADVENTURES OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DEUCE BIGALOW:EUROPEAN GIGOLO 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
3 LUTHER 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LORD OF WAR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS

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CBCP's 'Be Not Afraid' fields strong, committed cast

By Nestor U. Torre

PEOPLE ARE IMPRESSED WHEN THEY learn that acclaimed stage-TV-film stars, Boots Anson-Roa and Tommy Abuel, have consented to join the cast of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' fundraising play, "'Be Not Afraid'—Pope John Paul II," on the dramatic and inspiring life of the much-loved late Roman Catholic pontiff.

They know how busy Boots and Tommy are as veteran stalwarts of the Philippine performing scene, and wonder how they've been able to fit the touring production into their schedules (Boots is currently shooting a TV series *and* two movies, etc.).

Inspiring story

The answer is simple: Boots and Tommy are committed talents who support worthy productions with their strong and insightful portrayals. And the inspiring story of Pope John Paul II's life is one such significant project in their book.

Tellingly, they don't merely honor the play with their esteemed presence, but tackle a number of challenging and complex roles in it—indeed, the parts assigned to them are so demanding that only experienced performing artists like them could do them full justice.

With their creativity and hard work in rehearsals, they in turn inspire the younger members of the cast to similarly do their best with the roles assigned to them.

The production's fresh faces and exciting new talents are Robby Romero, Chichi Atienza, Trish Katipunan, Catherine Estabillo and child talent Myka.

They may not be as experienced in the theater, but they strive hard to measure up to the high standards set by Tommy and Boots.

They also look to the similarly sterling example set by other theater stalwarts in the production, like Rito Asilo, Andy Bais, Karla Pambid, Danny Magisa, Cecil Torre and Albert Jimenez.

Veterans of many significant plays, including the acclaimed religious musicals, "Magnificat," "Nasaan si Hesus?" and "Birhen ng Caysasay," they lend their estimable talents to add further to the drama and power of the biographical play.

Touring production

Their talents are put to full use because, since the play is a touring production, its actors all play a wide range of parts. Shifting from one textured character to another is a tall order for any performer, but the challenge brings out the best in the strong, committed thespians who make "'Be Not Afraid'—Pope John Paul II" come to vivid life onstage.

The CBCP's fundraising play will have its invitational premiere on Nov. 8 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

If you want "Be Not Afraid" to perform in your school, parish or locality, call Andy Bais at 780-9210 or 0919 206-5424 or the CBCP Office on Women at 527-8031, or 527-4138. Sets and costumes are by Tony Adriano.

(CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT) Boots Anson-Roa and Tommy Abuel set high standards for exciting young talents, Robby Romero and Chichi Atienza, to emulate.

SANTOS (left) with his actors, Vicencio, Joson and Capri.

'Ala Verde, Ala Pobre' wins four Cinemanila awards

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

ANA CAPRI WON best actress, Bo Vicencio walked off with the best actor trophy, Jorge Arago and Briccio Santos won the screenplay prize, and Briccio copped second runner-up in the best film in the digital category. According to Santos, "Digital technology has arrived, and it's growing at a fast rate!"

"Ala Verde, Ala Pobre" is one of the eight official digital film entries to the Cinemanila International Film Festival. Vicencio was a surprise winner in the best actor category.

He came on board as make-up artist, but when the camera was about to roll, the contracted actor was not around. The train needed for the set had already been hired, and the camera was ready to roll. Santos called Bo to do a cameo. "Improvise," he was ordered.

Overnight sensation

Bo did, and became an overnight sensation! The rest is history. Ana Capri turned in a riveting performance. She essayed three characters in a thespic turn reminiscent of Joanne Woodward's performance in "The Three Faces of Eve."

Santos honed his craft in Paris, Germany and New York. He sees redemption not only in his movie, but also in the digital medium: "It is a way to cut production costs while stressing entertainment quality and elevating filmmaking in this country," he observes.

* * *

Susan Andaya, 48, fashion designer and businesswoman, passed away last Oct. 19. She is survived by daughters Ellen and Tricia, and son Armin; parents Elvira and Emiliano Andaya; sisters Aba, Lit, Apieh and Yoyet, and brother Jeff. The wake was held at the Sta. Cecilia Chapel in Canlubang, Laguna. Susan was cremated at Loyola Crematory Services in Guadalupe, Makati.

I will miss you, my friend!

Heroes and reformist

From page A4-1

taught to him as a child and as a young priest—from the way religion was peddled as a commodity to the contrasting ways that God was presented in those days: As judge, jury and executioner in the Old Testament, and as a merciful, forgiving messiah in the New Testament. Don't tell us you aren't intrigued!

If life on the fast lane has kept you from examining where you stand right now in the spiritual scheme of things, perhaps this movie will remind you that there's more to achieving than getting all the money and power in the world—and that there's a different kind of fulfillment that can be had beyond earthly pleasures!

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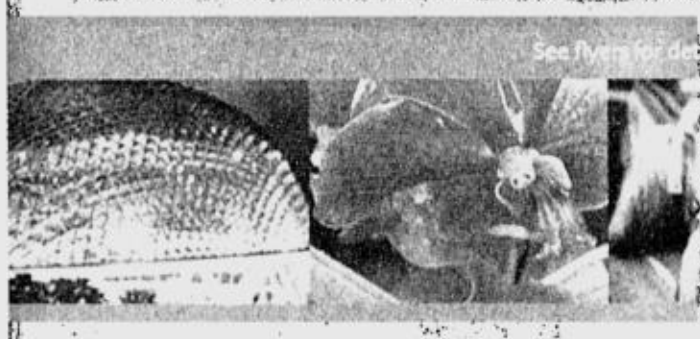

Upcoming Events

October
7 Quidam by Cirque du Soleil
7 STOMP
13 ARTSingapore - The Asian Contemporary Art Fair
8 - 9 Journey of Faith
15 - 16 The Fairy Tale World of Hans Christian Andersen
15 - 17 East Meets West
15 - 19 Singapore Jewel Fest
29 - 30 Hari Raya Celebrations 2005
4 - 11 Navarathiri
5 - 9 Jose Carreras - Celebrating 100 Years of VCH
7 - 8 SUBTEXT
7 - 16 Peter Pan
7 - 31 Deepavali Festival
10 Michael Bublé Live in Singapore
22 - 23 Holistic Living Festival
24 Theemidhi Festival
29 - 31 Asian Xcursion 2005
31 Thumbelina
TBA Asian Art Week

November
1 - 6 Asian Xcursion 2005
1 - 6 Deepavali Festival
1 - 13 Hari Raya Celebrations 2005
1 - 13 Thumbelina
6 - 30 The End, the Beginning: 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II Speech Exhibition
7 - 10 Hari Raya Light Up
8 Ustad Ono Romance of India Tour 2005
11 - 30 Kalai Utsavam 2005
11 - 30 Swiss Dream Circus
12 - 30 Christmas in the Tropics
16 - 20 World Cyber Games 2005 Grand Finals
17 - 30 Gao Xingjian
18 - 30 A Twist of Fate
18 - 30 Masterpieces of the Century - Treasures from Opera Gallery
19 - 30 The Art of Star Wars Exhibition
22 RENT
22 - 30 Snow Queen
24 - 27 SITEX 2005 @ Singapore
26 - 27 Singapore River Regatta

December
1 A Twist of Fate
1 Snow Queen
18 Masterpieces of the Century - Treasures from Opera Gallery
31 Celebrate December
31 Gao Xingjian
31 Swiss Dream Circus
31 The Art of Star Wars Exhibition
31 Christmas in the Tropics
Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon
4 An acapella Christmas
10 ZoukOut 2005
16 - 23 The Nutcracker

January
1 Good Vibes and Peace - A feel-good new year pop concert
1 - 2 Swiss Dream Circus
1 - 2 Christmas in the Tropics
1 - 31 The Art of Star Wars Exhibition
27 - 31 Singapore River Hong Bao

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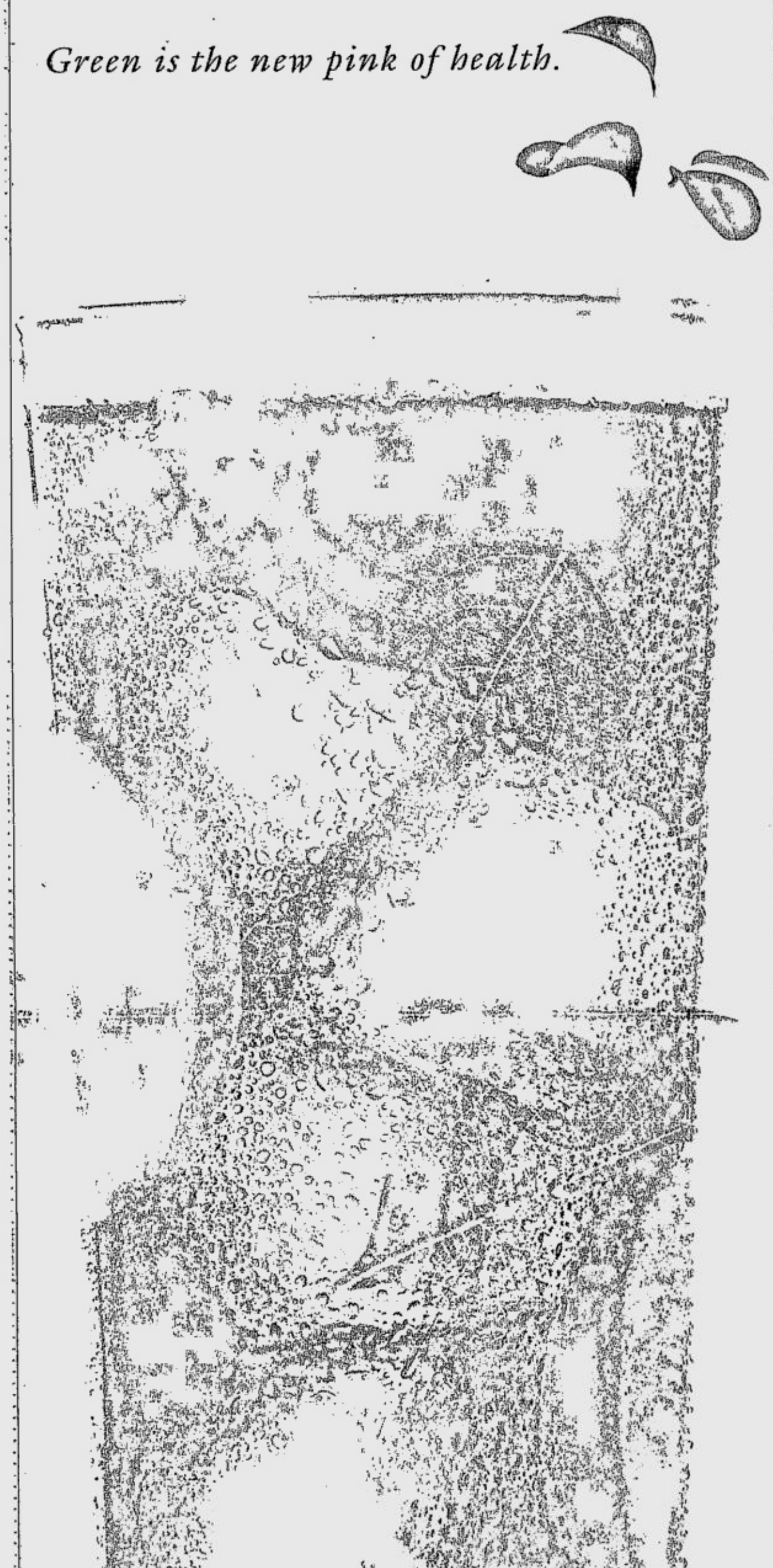


BLUNT. Nothing brusque or dull about his music.

James Blunt's album strikes right balance

By Noelani Torre

HIS NAME NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE'S nothing brusque or dull about James Blunt's music. A more apt description of the singer-songwriter's sound would be melancholic, dreamy, romantic, and reminiscent of Damien Rice and Elliot Smith—in other words, nary a blunt object in sight!

This comes as a surprise when you consider the fact that wielding blunt objects, in a manner of speaking, was what the 28-year-old Brit did until quite recently. This scruffy, blue-jeaned modern troubadour was, until three years ago, a captain in the Household Cavalry of Her Majesty's Army. And though he did do the sword and plumed helmet stuff once, he also saw some real action as a NATO reconnaissance officer at Kosovo.

Interest

Blunt would probably have generated some short-lived interest solely for being a soldier-turned-singer, but it just happens that he has more than that going for him—mainly talent, looks, and all the right recording contacts. Five minutes into his debut album, "Back to Bedlam," and you'll see how and why he was able to get the latter in a short period of time.

Lyrical and polished, "Back to Bedlam" makes for an impressive showing from someone who's only just taken up music-making as a profession. Blunt's posh/military background (he went to Harrow and the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, and his family has been in the army for generations) didn't leave much room for music, though he did take violin and piano lessons while growing up.

"I began playing the electric guitar when I was 14," he said in an interview. "My mind was set on having musical ideas. Sadly, I had to get an education and enlist in the army first."

Driving a tank and dodging bullets may not have been as enjoyable as performing for an adoring, mostly female crowd, but his previous experiences have certainly contributed positively to his musical career. Aside from the marketability aspect of being dubbed a soldier-singer, it's also given him something else to write about.

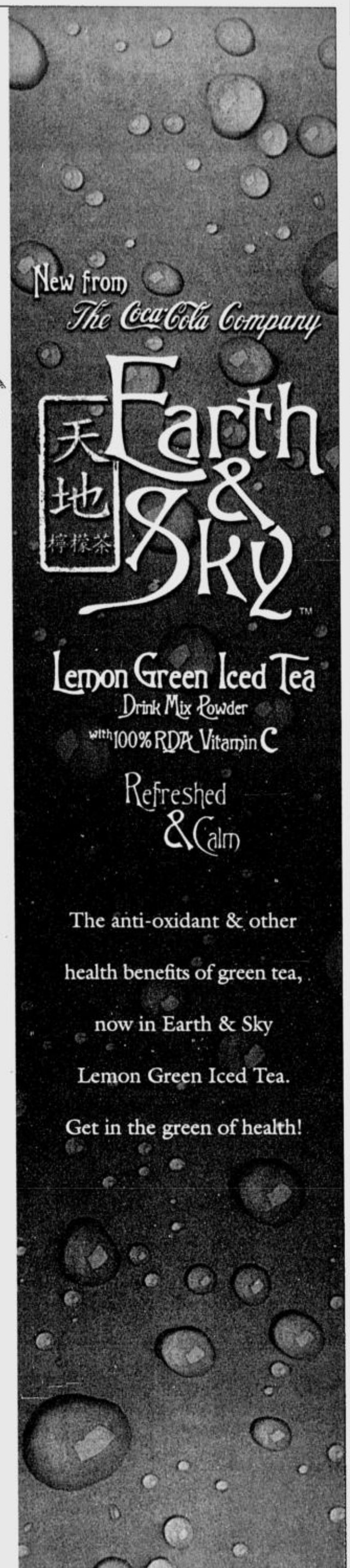
Existential musings

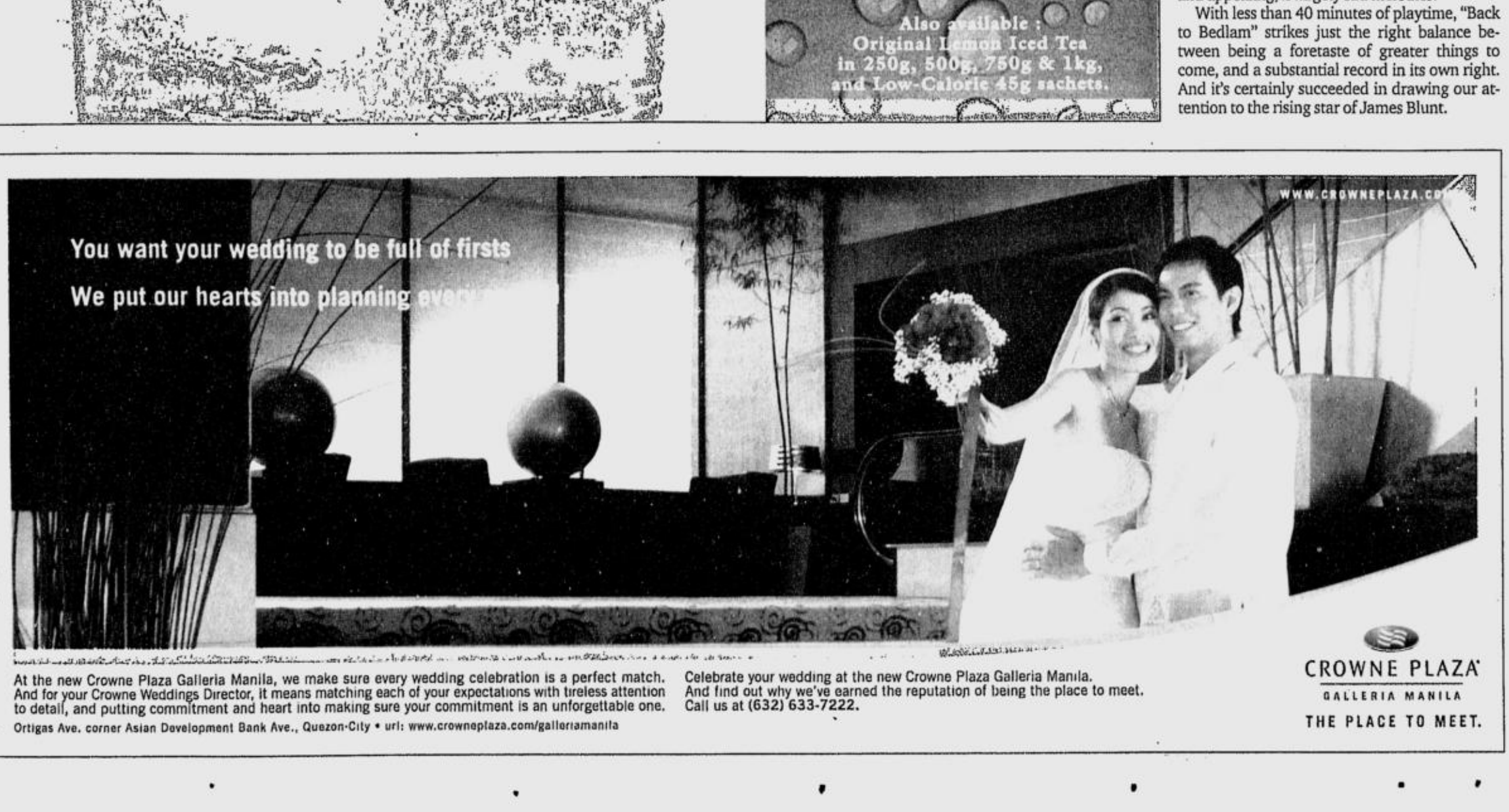
Most of the songs in "Back to Bedlam" deal with love and your usual existential musings. Album ender "No Bravery," however, is about what Blunt saw in Kosovo, and it is one of the best songs in the lineup. When he quietly sings: "The smell of death is in the air," and of "Wives and daughters cut and raped," it is resonant and moving.

His most popular song to date, though, is "You're Beautiful," a regretful ballad exploring his favored theme of unattainable love. Elton John, with whom Blunt shares a management team, has even hailed it as today's "Your Song."

Musically speaking, there's nothing in this album that's particularly innovative. Blunt has a rather distinctive voice, however, like that of a young Elton John, but with a Rod Stewart rasp, and he's nothing if not heartfelt. The songs themselves are loaded with catchy guitar riffs and appealing, if largely sad melodies.

With less than 40 minutes of playtime, "Back to Bedlam" strikes just the right balance between being a foretaste of greater things to come, and a substantial record in its own right. And it's certainly succeeded in drawing our attention to the rising star of James Blunt.





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Peso gains, stocks fall on key rates hike

Political tension still weighs down market

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS' SURprise decision to hike overnight interest rates lifted the peso yesterday to a four-month high of 55.45 to $1, easing market jitters over mounting street protests calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gaining 26 centavos from Thursday's finish of 55.71 to the US dollar, the local currency opened at 55.61 and hit an intraday high of 55.43 at the Philippine Dealing System.

However, share prices yesterday closed down 1.14 percent, hitting a five-week low due to the same BSP decision. The move to tighten monetary policy dampened investor appetite and triggered foreign selling.

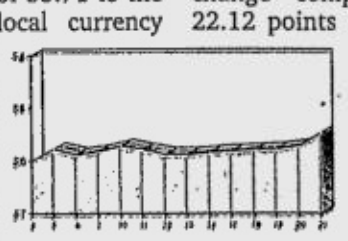


TABLE above tracks the progress of the peso throughout October. Below, the movement of the Philippine Composite Index.

At the same time, political tensions continued to weigh on market sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 22.12 points to 1,922.50, after trading between 1,919.73 and 1,944.62.

Volume was 583.1 million shares worth P821.5 million ($14.76 million).

The broader all-shares index fell 9.88 points to 1,171.92.

Losers beat gainers 64 to 20, with 39 stocks unchanged.

The peso was aided by the weakening of the US dollar, following a weak economic report

PESO/ B3

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Projected benefits from tourism 2005-2006

Source: Medium Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010

IN 2004, tourism generated employment for three million Filipinos and an income of $ 0.8 billion. With the country's world-class natural attractions, the government is moving to boost tour packages focusing on beach visits and sightseeing as well as shopping. From these efforts, income is expected to triple in 2005-2006 to $2.8 billion.

Chona Galang, PDI Research

Manufacturers to shoulder rising costs due to VAT

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REformed value-added tax law is expected to raise the cost of producing basic goods by about 2 percent, which manufacturers have agreed to shoulder instead of passing on to consumers, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

According to Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila, who is also chair of the National Price Coordinating Council, he expects "very minimal movement in prices" when the law takes effect in November.

Francis Buencamino, executive director of the Alliance of Fish Canners and Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc., said that while increases in prices of fuel and electricity would push up production costs, other factors could mitigate this impact.

"For instance, we have ample supply of fish, which tend to soften prices," Buencamino said.

Federico Ples, secretary general of the Philippine Association of Supermarkets, said there was "very little change in the prices from our suppliers."

"As for the 70 percent cap on input VAT, it may not affect us at all since our input VAT is always higher than our output VAT," Ples said.

Other manufacturers said they would expect prices to start going up considerably in December, when demand for goods rise because of the holidays.

Favila said the Department of Trade and Industry has put in place several measures to prevent unreasonable price increases.

One such measure is the daily monitoring of prices, at least for the next two weeks, in 58 wet markets in Metro Manila and key trading centers in the provinces.

Favila said there had been little movement in the prices of basic goods in the past three months, based on DTI monitoring reports.

Some brands of sardines and powdered milk even went down by as much as P1.50 per item.

"Save for a brand of coffee and bath soap that went up by P1, prices of basic commodities have remained stable as well," he said.

Prices of hard flour were stable in the past three months, while those of soft flour decreased by P20 for a 25-kg bag. Prices of cement stayed at P158 for a 40-kg bag, while those of steel products were stable. Prices of agriculture products remained the same.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Supply deal issue hinders Napocor privatization /B2

Cebu Pacific obtains $25.8-M financing /B2

DMCI to bid for Calaca plant /B3

For RP, a cautious nudge to a positive outlook

By Michelle V. Remo

WHILE MORGAN STANLEY GAVE A POSItive outlook on the Philippines' credit standing, citing strong gains in the fiscal front, the investment bank also threw in a word of caution, warning that foreign investors are becoming increasingly concerned over the country's political problems.

Morgan Stanley gave the country's debt the highest rating of "overweight," pointing to strong revenue collection that is expected to trim down the national government's budget deficit to a level better than programmed.

The improving fiscal situation has somehow eased the adverse effects of bad politics on the country's credit image before investors, the bank said.

A rating of "overweight" means that over the next six months, a fixed-income instrument issued by a government is likely to have a total return exceeding the average total return of a relevant benchmark.

Morgan Stanley made a forecast that the government's deficit would fall somewhere between P150 billion and P160 billion by the end of the year—substantially lower than the official ceiling of P180 billion the authorities set for the year.

The bank likewise credited the country's ability to keep a healthy balance-of-payment position despite continued spike in prices of oil in the world market. The redeeming factor was the strong overseas remittances, which it noted could hit $9.5 billion to $10 billion by the end of the year.

"The economics story, and in particular, the fiscal and balance of payments story, looks very good, and this has definitely been an anchor for the Philippines over the past 12 months," Morgan Stanley said in a paper, "Don't Let Politics Tarnish the Economics."

"The politics on the other hand has been exactly the opposite," it said.

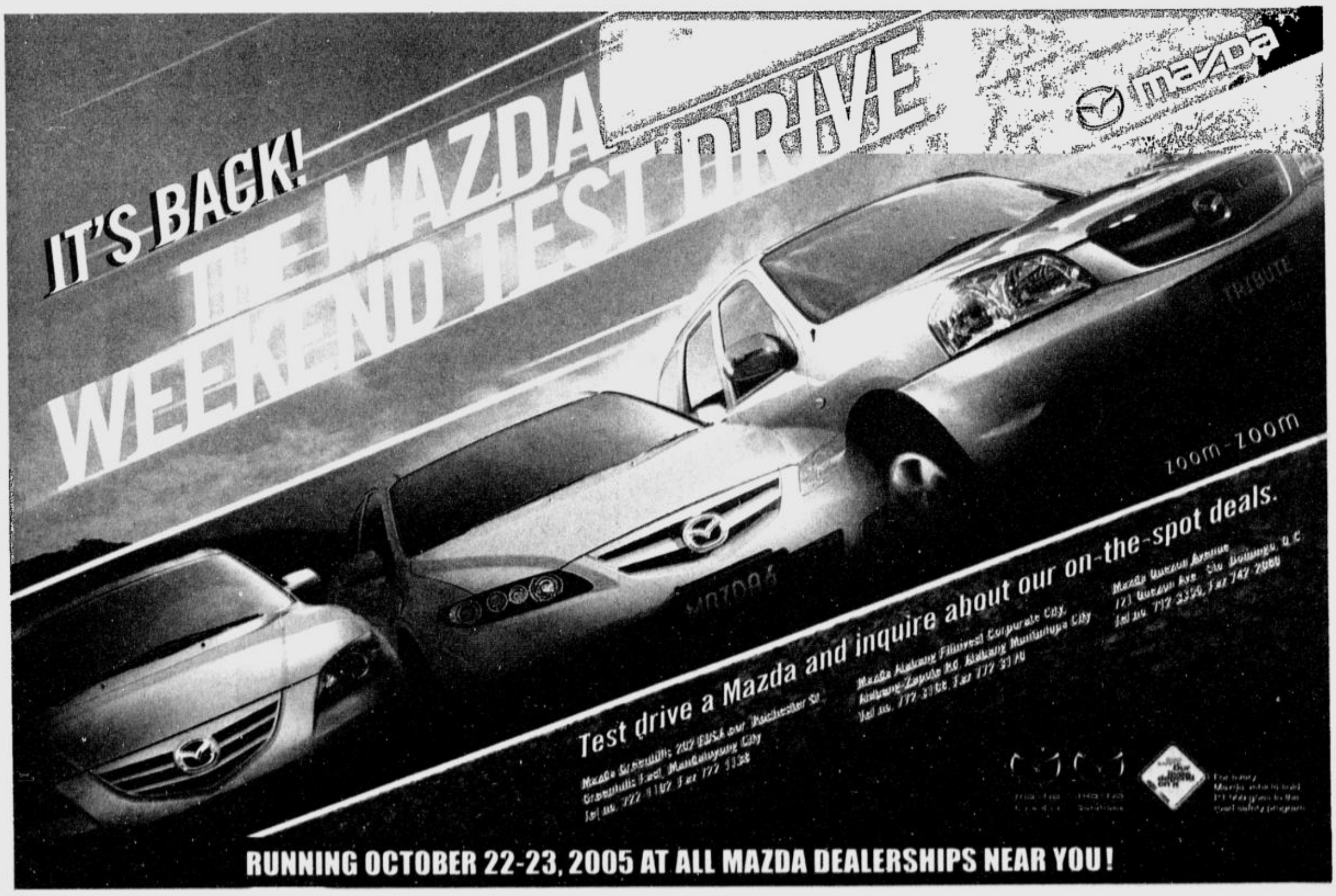
Although political problems have not yet spilled over to the fiscal front, the bank said, these merited monitoring.

"Politics is clearly a source of concern for us as international investors."

Morgan Stanley said that if not for the better-than-target fiscal performance of the Philippines, the ongoing political noise would have been a recipe for disaster.

On the country's fiscal reform program, the bank said that while making it strict had its advantages, the country should make some room for increased spending on vital items like infrastructure.

Morgan Stanley noted that with the momentum of a declining deficit, fiscal authorities are optimistic in increasing the government's primary surplus from the current 2.6 percent of gross domestic product to 4 percent over the medium term, or between 2007 and 2010.



Supply deal issue hinders Napocor privatization

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ABSENCE OF TRANSITION supply contracts (TSC) remains one of the main hurdles to the privatization of National Power Corp. as prospective investors think twice about investing in generation plants without a ready market.

Philippine Independent Power Producers Association president Ernesto Pantangco said it was very important for IPPs to have a ready market for their power production.

He said the absence of TSCs would reflect on Napocor's valuation.

He explained that the merchant plant concept, where plants had no off-take contracts, caused the downfall of some major IPPs in the world.

Prospective investors demand ready market

The Lopez-led Manila Electric Co., which accounts for around 70 percent of Napocor's power sales in Luzon and half of its sales nationwide, has yet to sign a TSC with Napocor.

Meralco vice president and utility economics head Ivanna dela Pena said that Meralco and Napocor could sign a TSC anytime once all the details were ironed out.

The main issue that Meralco, Napocor and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) were trying to iron out, she said, involved the procurement level.

This is the amount of power that Meralco will draw from Napocor plants in the duration of the contract, which will expire a year after the declaration of retail competition and open access system.

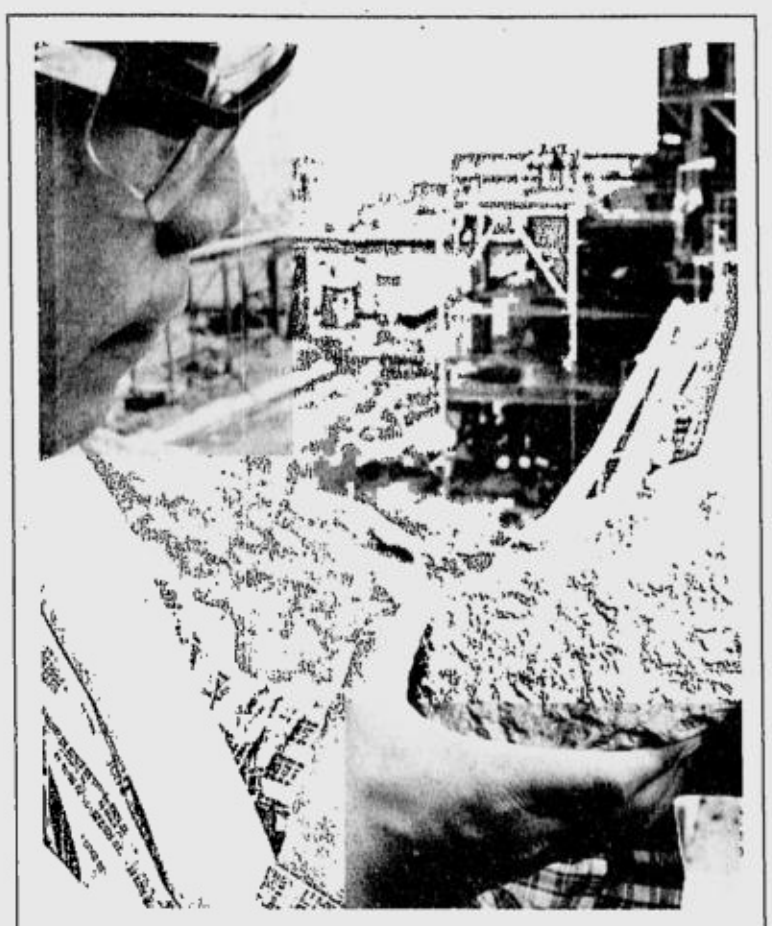
Dela Pena said the current negotiations were only for a TSC between Meralco and Napocor. A long-term contract between the two is a subject of another negotiation.

Pantangco said Meralco, as a distribution utility (DU), also had some major concerns about signing a TSC, particularly with the prospective implementation of the open access scheme.

Upon implementation of open access, power users with an average monthly demand of at least 1 megawatt (MW) will become part of the "contestable" market that can opt to tap power distributors other than Meralco.

These issues notwithstanding, he said Napocor and PSALM would have to address the issue on TSCs if the state firm's privatization were to really move forward.

Napocor and PSALM have already signed TSCs with the Aboitizes' Visayan Electric Co. and Davao Light and Power Co., as well as with the Cagayan de Oro Power and Light Co.



A FILIPINO mining engineer examines a mineralized ore containing copper and zinc in front of a milling plant in Lafayette Mining's open pit multi-mineral mine at Rapu Rapu island in Albay. Australia's Lafayette Mining Ltd. has so far produced 2,500 ounces of gold and will start copper and zinc production next month at its base metals plant, part of its Rapu-rapu project. REUTERS

Cebu Pacific obtains $25.8-M financing

CEBU AIR PACIFIC, THE COUNTRY'S second-largest carrier, has clinched its second financing agreement worth $25.83 million with European export credit agencies for the acquisition of another Airbus 319.

The aircraft was to be delivered yesterday, according to the company's disclosure to the stock exchange.

Its parent firm, JG Summit Holdings Inc., was one of the guarantors of the debt.

Creditors such as Hermes of Germany, Coface of France and the Export Credits Guarantee Department of the United Kingdom will finance the purchase. The same group financed the first acquisition a month ago.

Ten more Airbus 319s will be arriving between now and early 2007. Cebu Pacific is buying 12 of these type of aircraft and is leasing two Airbus 320s to boost its regional and domestic operations.

The $350-million re-fleeting to end in February 2007 would make Cebu Pacific's aircraft among the newest in the region and the youngest in the country, according to its president Lance Gokongwei. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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Lot 678-C McArthur Hway, Balibago
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LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 288 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 3-D Brgy Rd., No. 387 Brgy. Sampaloc
Minimum Bid Price 370,000.00
LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 105 sqm.
Lot 1985-C-3-H-3 Public Market Pasilio, San Vicente
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Minimum Bid Price 999,000.00
LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 360 sqm.
Lot 19 & 21 Blk. 13 St.Peter Subd., San Vicente
Minimum Bid Price 184,000.00

ARAYAT
LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 341 sqm.
Lot 3056-A Brgy Balli
Minimum Bid Price 97,000.00
LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 370 sqm. F.A.: 145 sqm.
Lot 8 Brgy. Rd., Purok 11, Cacutud
Minimum Bid Price 829,000.00
LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm.
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LOT 10 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 743 sqm.
Lot 2284-J-1-C Brgy Gatiawin
Minimum Bid Price 253,000.00

BACOLOR
LOT 11 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 328 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 11 Rd. Lot 1, Don Bosco Village, Brgy. Cabalantian
Minimum Bid Price 20,000.00
LOT 12 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 301 sqm.
Lot 3321-B-2 Brgy. Rd., Brgy. Macabacle
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LOT 13 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 46 Blk 3 Rd. Lot 3, San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price 15,000.00

FLORIDA BLANCA
LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 21,17 sqm.
Lot 07 Pabanlang
Minimum Bid Price 1,186,000.00

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LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 615 sqm.
Lot 1473 & 1134, #9 Purok 6, Brgy. Natividad
Minimum Bid Price 85,000.00
LOT 16 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,907 sqm.
Lot 3-B Ascomo, Pulungmasle
Minimum Bid Price 201,000.00
LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 250 sqm.
Lot 4-B, #214, Purok 4, Brgy. Ascomo, Pulungmasle
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L.A.: 300 sqm.
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L.A.: 241 sqm.
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Minimum Bid Price 45,000.00
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Lot 5-N Cervantes Subd., Sto Niño
Minimum Bid Price 117,000.00
LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 403 sqm.
Lot 5-O Cervantes Subd., Sto Niño
Minimum Bid Price 103,000.00
LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,033 sqm.
Lot 5-P Cervantes Subd., Sto Niño
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L.A.: 1,392 sqm.
Lot 2-C & 2-E San Roque Arbol
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L.A.: 1,069 sqm.
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Minimum Bid Price: 319,000.00
LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-I-2 Rd. Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price: 319,000.00
LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-I-3 Rd. Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price: 319,000.00
LOT 29 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-H-3 Rd. Lot 1-J, San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price: 319,000.00
LOT 30 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-H-2, Rd. Lot 1-J San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price 319,000.00
LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-H-1, Rd. Lot 1-J, San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price: 319,000.00
LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,069 sqm.
Lot 1-I-4 Prov'l. Rd., San Roque Dau 1St
Minimum Bid Price: 446,000.00
LOT 33 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,875 sqm. F.A.: 413 sqm.
Lot 5700 & 5701 Brgy. Rd., Brgy Sta. Lucia
Minimum Bid Price: 1,573,000.00
LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 7,000 sqm.
Lot C-1 Brgy. Sta. Lucia & San Juan
Minimum Bid Price 16,000.00

MABALACAT
LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 375 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 36 Rizal St. Dolores
Minimum Bid Price 90,000.00

MACABEBE
LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 209 sqm. F.A.: 154 sqm.
Lot 927 Nat'l. Rd., Caduang Tete
Minimum Bid Price 422,000.00
LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 538 sqm.
Lot 2593-T Access Rd. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price 69,000.00

MAGALANG
LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 359 sqm. F.A.: 72 sqm.
Lot 2, #106 Purok 4, Brgy. San Jose
Minimum Bid Price 196,000.00
LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,785 sqm.
Lot 9-A Balitucan Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 1,040,000.00
LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,177 sqm.
Lot 9-B Balitucan Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 813,000.00
LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,171 sqm.
Lot 9-C Balitucan Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 811,000.00
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L.A.: 2,164 sqm.
Lot 9-D Balitucan Rd. San Miguel
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L.A.: 2,264 sqm.
Lot 9-E Balitucan Rd. San Miguel
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LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,172 sqm.
Lot 9-F Balitucan Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 811,000.00
LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,190 sqm.
Lot 9-G Balitucan Rd. San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 818,000.00
LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 12,050 sqm. F.A.: 1,488 sqm.
Lot 2 Brgy. Rd., San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price 2,247,000.00
LOT 47 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 226 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 64,000.00
LOT 48 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 331 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price 93,000.00
LOT 49 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00
LOT 50 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00
LOT 51 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00

LOT 52 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00
LOT 53 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00
LOT 54 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00
LOT 55 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 68,000.00
LOT 56 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 10, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 20,000.00
LOT 57 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 24,000.00
LOT 58 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 12, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 24,000.00
LOT 59 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 433 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 1 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 260,000.00
LOT 60 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 368 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 1 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 221,000.00
LOT 61 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 303 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 1 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 182,000.00
LOT 62 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 368 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 221,000.00
LOT 63 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 243 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 150,000.00
LOT 64 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 253 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 152,000.00
LOT 65 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 257 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 155,000.00
LOT 66 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 261 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 157,000.00
LOT 67 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 265 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 159,000.00
LOT 68 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 270 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro Magalang
Minimum Bid Price: 162,000.00
LOT 69 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 295 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 2 Pob. San Pedro Magalang
Minimum Bid Price: 144,000.00

LOT 76 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 155 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 93,000.00
LOT 77 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 218 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 131,000.00
LOT 78 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 149 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 9 Pob. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 90,000.00
LOT 79 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 183 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 52,000.00
LOT 80 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 147 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 42,000.00
LOT 81 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 185 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 52,000.00
LOT 82 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 148 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 42,000.00
LOT 83 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 183 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 52,000.00
LOT 84 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 304 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 86,000.00
LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 236 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 86 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 87 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 89 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 90 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 260 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000.00
LOT 91 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 355 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 27,000.00
LOT 92 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 206 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 16,000.00
LOT 93 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 338 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 26,000.00
LOT 94 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 95 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 96 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 97 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 236 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 5 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 98 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 363 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 28,000.00
LOT 99 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 100 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 101 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 102 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00

LOT 103 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 104 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 105 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 106 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 107 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 108 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 329 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk. 6 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 25,000.00
LOT 109 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 279 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 7 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 21,000.00
LOT 110 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 238 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 7 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 111 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 244 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 7 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 19,000.00
LOT 112 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 242 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 8 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 72,000.00
LOT 113 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 13, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 114 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 115 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 116 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 281 sqm.
Lot 16, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 22,000.00
LOT 117 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 197 sqm.
Lot 17, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 15,000.00
LOT 118 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 290 sqm.
Lot 18, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 22,000.00
LOT 119 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 19, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 120 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 20, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 121 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 21, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 122 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 22, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 123 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 23, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 124 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 24, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 125 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 25, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 126 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 26, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 127 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 27, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 128 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 28, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 129 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 130 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 18,000.00
LOT 131 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 306 sqm.
Lot 31, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 23,000.00
LOT 132 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 207 sqm.
Lot 32, Blk 4 San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 16,000.00

MASANTOL
LOT 133 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 194 sqm.
Lot 735-B-13-I-5-6 Brgy Bebe-Anac
Minimum Bid Price: 61,000.00

CALUMPIT
LOT 134 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 270 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 9 Subd. Rd., San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: 152,000.00
LOT 135 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 270 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 9 Subd. Rd., San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: 152,000.00

MINALIN
LOT 136 LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 410 sqm. F.A.: 95 sqm.
Lot 10 No. 56 Capt. Felicano St., Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price: 203,000.00
LOT 137-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 345 sqm. F.A.: 251 sqm.
Lot No. 16 Calaocan St., Brgy Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price: 175,000.00
LOT 138-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 513 sqm. F.A.: 115 sqm.
Lot 295 Bonto St., Lourdes
Minimum Bid Price: 416,000.00
LOT 139-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 368 sqm.
Lot 1143 Brgy. Rd., Brgy. San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: 86,000.00
LOT 140 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 238 sqm.
Lot 25, Blk 17 Rd. Lot, Brgy Sta. Rita
Minimum Bid Price: 51,000.00

PORAC
LOT 141 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,486 sqm.
Lot 1115-B Brgy Mancallon
Minimum Bid Price: 5,000.00
LOT 142 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,480 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 4 Brgy Manibaug-Pasig
Minimum Bid Price: 64,000.00
LOT 143-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 160 sqm.
Lot 489-B-2-C-3 & 218 Purok 5 Brgy Palat
Minimum Bid Price: 256,000.00
LOT 144-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,605 sqm.
Lot 1037 & Lot 1039-I Gen Luna St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 1,313,000.00
LOT 145 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,013 sqm.
Lot 497-D-10 Brgy Sapang Buloan
Minimum Bid Price: 130,000.00

SAN FERNANDO
LOT 146 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 431 sqm.
Lot 4177-A-9-E Purok 3, Brgy. Dela Paz Norte
Minimum Bid Price: 81,000.00
LOT 147-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 341 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
Lot 4160-A Brgy. Saguin
Minimum Bid Price: 70,000.00
LOT 148 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,675 sqm.
Lot 9-E Corazon St., Brgy. San Agustin
Minimum Bid Price: 688,884.09
LOT 149 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 406 sqm.
Lot 3-A-9 San Agustin
Minimum Bid Price: 338,000.00
LOT 150 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 200 sqm.
Lot 10, Blk 17 Bel-Air And Sta. Monica Subds., San Felipe & San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price: 57,000.00
LOT 151 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 200 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk 17 Bel-Air And Sta Monica Subds., San Felipe & San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price: 57,000.00
LOT 152 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 375 sqm.
Lot28, Blk 1 Rd. Lot 2, San Jose Village, Brgy San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: 64,000.00
LOT 153-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 101 sqm. F.A.: 252 sqm.
Lot 29-B, #531 Purok 1, San Jose Pandaan
Minimum Bid Price: 897,000.00
LOT 154-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot 21, Blk 4 Gonzals St., Olivas Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price: 266,064.48
LOT 155 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 351 sqm.
Lot 20, Blk 10 Rd. Lot 7, Olivas Subd., San Nicolas
Minimum Bid Price: 100,000.00
LOT 156-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 383 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 5 Brgy. Rd., Purok 10, Sta. Lucia
Minimum Bid Price: 108,000.00

LOT 157-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 379 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 6 Rd. Lot 2, Aurea Subd., Sta. Lucia
Minimum Bid Price: 97,000.00

PLAN LUIS TOWN
LOT 158-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,395 sqm. F.A.: 95 sqm.
Lot 2318-C Brgy. Rd. # 326 San Juan
Minimum Bid Price: 143,000.00
LOT 159 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 20,446 sqm.
Lot 2213-F San Juan
Minimum Bid Price: 384,000.00
LOT 160-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 232 sqm. F.A.: 123 sqm.
Lot 5-A-4 Brgy. Rd., # 2591 San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 65,000.00
LOT 161-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 506 sqm.
Lot 22 Brgy Rd. Brgy San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 41,000.00

SAN SIMON
LOT 162-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 78 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 1 Rd. Lot 1 Brgy. Concepcion
Minimum Bid Price: 50,000.00
LOT 163 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 554 sqm.
Lot 3310 Concepcion
Minimum Bid Price: 151,000.00
LOT 164-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 893 sqm.
Lot 2 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 416,000.00
LOT 165-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 273 sqm.
Lot 4 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 59,000.00
LOT 166-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 773 sqm. F.A.: 140 sqm.
Lot No. 1523 Municipal Rd., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 484,000.00
LOT 167-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 566 sqm. F.A.: 70 sqm.
Lot 1342 Prov'l. Rd., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: 200,000.00

STA. ANA
LOT 168 LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 263 sqm. F.A.: 170 sqm.
Lot 17 & 19, Blk 2 Rd. Lot, Alvello Heights, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,002,000.00

STO. TOMAS
LOT 169 LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 271 sqm. F.A.: 98 sqm.
Lot 15 Interior, Bolangcas
Minimum Bid Price: 130,000.00
LOT 170-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 23 Subd. Rd., Bolangcas
Minimum Bid Price: 84,000.00
LOT 171 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 4 Brgy. Rd., Mona Dela Paz
Minimum Bid Price: 272,000.00
LOT 172 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 707 sqm.
Lot 1762-B-1 Sto. Dalaquiton, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 453,000.00
LOT 173-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 384 sqm. F.A.: 144 sqm.
Lot 17 & 19, Blk 3, Subd. Rd., Countrysquare Subd., San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 508,000.00
LOT 174-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 12,185 sqm. F.A.: 913 sqm.
Lot 1, 2 & 1784-C-2-A Prov'L. Rd., Brgy San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 3,284,000.00
LOT 176-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 283 sqm. F.A.: 72 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 9 Rd. Lot 1, Paraiso Subd., San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 259,583.64
LOT 176-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 557 sqm.
Lots 28 & 29, Blk 1 Rd. Lot 1, Paraiso Subd., San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 267,000.00
LOT 177-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 104 sqm.
Lot 36, Blk 1 Subd. Rd., Paraiso Subd., San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 426,000.00
LOT 178-LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 255 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 1, Brgy. Rd., Twaho Subd., San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 503,761.39
LOT 179 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 440 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 23 Subd. Rd., Bolangcas, San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 113,000.00
LOT 180 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 192 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 3 Subd. Rd., Coury Square Subd., San Matias
Minimum Bid Price: 50,000.00

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SM Investments wants hand in managing Sy's assets in China

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. (SMIC), THE LISTed flagship company of mall magnate Henry Sy Sr., may participate in the management of the assets owned by the taipan in China, Sy's eldest daughter and SMIC vice chair Teresita Sy said after a Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) forum on Wednesday.

The Sy Group is studying how its mall operator SM Prime Holdings and SMIC can participate in running the malls and the pieces of property owned by the family in China, which already carry the "SM" trademark.

The Sy family is expanding overseas with the opening of three new SM malls in China—specifically Xiamen, Gingiang and Chengdu.

Sy admitted that the plan was still at the very early stages and that even the nature of SMIC or SM Prime's involvement in these privately owned malls was still being discussed.

In the meantime, Sy stressed that the family was not "in any way" involved in a rival bid for Singaporean office developer United Industrial Corp. after the Gokongwei Group of taipan John Gokongwei Jr. has proposed to takeover the company.

Analysts said they were expecting a proxy war between United Overseas Bank chair Wee Cho Yaw and Gokongwei over UIC.

Talks of renewed rivalry between the Sys and the Gokongweis were triggered recently by Banco de Oro's offer to buy the majority of

DMCI to bid for Calaca plant

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CONSTRUCTION GIANT DMCI HOLDINGS Inc. is bidding for National Power Corp.'s 600-megawatt coal-fired Calaca power plant in Batangas, a well-informed source confirmed with INQUIRER.

The source said DMCI has submitted its bid for the power plant to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), the government body set up to sell Napocor's power plants.

The Calaca power facility was first offered to prospective investors last June.

But without an assured market for its electricity, two of the three prospective bidders pulled out, forcing PSALM to cancel the bidding.

Aside from DMCI, First Generation Holdings of the Lopez Group also earlier expressed interest in pursuing its bid for the plant.

The source said DMCI was encouraged to push through with the planned acquisition of Calaca as it expects to post a better profit this year of P3.1 billion.

This is due mainly to a one-time gain of more than P1 billion from the sale of shares in its coal subsidiary Semirara Mining Corp., which supplies part of the coal requirement of the Calaca plant.

DMCI is also earning from the property sales of its international offices.

Sales from DMCI Homes' representative offices overseas hit P250 million as of September, just P50 million shy of its P300-million sales target for the year.

DMCI Homes has sales offices catering to overseas Filipino workers in Italy, Dubai, London. Tokyo and Australia will be put up soon.

Separately, Semirara plans to buy back more of its shares from the market for P25 a share.

Semirara earlier approved a program to buy back 40 million shares from the stock market, which it could sell back at a higher price or issue as dividends to shareholders, a source said.

Semirara also recorded its highest coal volume this year in September. Sources said that as of September, Semirara's coal volume hit 1.67 million metric tons, with coal selling at P2,252.25 a metric ton.

For September alone, volume of coal reached 253,854 metric tons.

Semirara has an existing contract with the National Power Corp. to supply coal to the Calaca plant until 2010.

The DMCI Group projects that 52 percent of its total coal volumes this year will go to the Napocor-run power plants.

SEC set to revoke incorporation papers

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) is set to nullify the incorporation papers of companies that have failed to file their annual reports for the last five years.

In an order, the SEC said it has been provided a list of 27,260 firms registered in 1998 and 1999 that have not filed both their audited financial statements and general information sheets.

The SEC said that by virtue of Presidential Decree 902-A, it can revoke, after proper notice and hearing , the primary franchise or certificates of incorporation of these companies.

A company faces revocation of its papers if it has failed to either formally organize and start its business within two years from the date of its incorporation; operate for at least five years, or submit the required reports.

Companies are given 30 days from the date of publication of its order to show cause why their certificates should not be revoked.

If the delinquent companies have not updated their files or settled the corresponding fines or penalty after the 30-day period, their certificates of incorporation shall be deemed revoked.

The SEC did not release the list of erring companies. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Peso gains, stocks fall on key . . .

From page B1

that indicated the creeping impact of recent hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico.

The US dollar dipped against major currencies yesterday despite indications from the US Federal Reserve that further interest rate increases were to be expected.

The US Fed has steadily raised its targeted funds rate from 1 to 3.75 percent since June 2004.

Marcelo Ayes, chief foreign exchange dealer at Equitable PCI Bank, said there was more room for the peso to appreciate.

He said the local currency could hit the 55.25 level—briefly in July 22 after China announced a revaluation of the yuan—and could even reach 55.10.

Ayes, who correctly predicted that the BSP would hike its overnight rates by 25 basis points during last Thursday's monetary setting, noted that the monetary authority has been moving pro-actively.

"If [the Monetary Board] would wait for the US Federal Reserve to further hike rates or for the EVAT (expanded value added tax) to take effect, the market will say [the board is] only protecting the peso," Ayes said.

With this preemptive strike, the BSP showed that it was doing its job, the currency dealer said. *With a report from AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 21, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31	1,017,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	50.5	49.5	50	2,302,700
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	1,570
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	10,300
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	80,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	25.5	25.5	969,600
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	10,000
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	1,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	600
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	29,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	5,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
Bankard Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	60,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1.02	1	1	134,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2005	2000	2005	350
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	740,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	710	705	705	18,670
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.9	1,451,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1655	1655	1650	1655	123,810
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	600,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	11,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	11,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.25	20.25	20	20.25	780,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	627,000
Petron Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.25	3.35	5,989,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	1,640,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	130,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	8,759,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	1,000,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.05	450,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	1,045,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	19,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28	28	28	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	33	33	194,900
Pancake House Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.75	49,000
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	430,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	749,000
San Miguel Corp. B	91	92	91	92	300
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	10,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	320,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0075	0.0065	0.0075	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	287.5	290	285	290	170,330
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	290,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.95	187,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.14	2.16	8,485,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	24,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.77	0.8	1,300,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	4,000
Batabac Resources & Hldgs	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	21,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	2,170,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	120,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	2.9	2.9	329,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	700,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	42.5	41	41	1,035,200
House Of Investments Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.95	4	3.9	3.95	1,943,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	558,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	6,340,000
Paxys Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	214,000
Polar Property Holdings	2	2	2	2	2,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	220	220	220	255,110
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.125	1,330,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	1,620,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.2	50,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	1,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	330,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.77	0.73	0.77	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	62,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	68,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	380,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14	14	13.75	13.75	131,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	3,000
Far Eastern University	620	620	620	620	500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.5	2,236,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	4,130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	30,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	8,373,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,000,000
City & Land Developers	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	300,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	440,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	270,000
SM Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.3	6,864,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.9	0.93	0.9	0.92	140,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.91	0.93	0.9	0.93	80,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	74,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	278,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	9,670,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	7,720,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	160,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	178,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.96	0.99	0.95	0.99	2,530,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.18	2,813,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25	25	24.75	24.75	156,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	16,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	96,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000

DISCLOSURES

JG Summit Holdings will be one of the guarantors of Cebu Pacific's aircraft financial agreement with various export credit agencies for the acquisition of another Airbus A319-100 for $25.83 million.

***

A BROWN Co. Inc. (BRN) on Oct. 19 bought 10,000 BRN shares at P0.85 a share; 60,000 BRN shares at P0.86 a share; 10,000 BRN shares at P0.88 A share, and 80,000 BRN shares at P0.90 a share. On Oct. 20, it purchased 250,000 BRN shares at P0.90 a share.

***

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. disclosed that on Oct. 20, vice president Anna Isabel V. Bengzon sold 500 shares.

***

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp. disclosed that its chair and CEO Oscar M. Lopez bought 1.28 million shares of FPHC stock. *Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

October 21, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.831947	1.000000	55.7490
Japan	Yen	0.007215	0.008672	0.4835
United Kingdom	Pound	1.476456	1.774700	98.9378
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107226	0.128886	7.1853
Switzerland	Franc	0.645720	0.776156	43.2699
Canada	Dollar	0.706656	0.849401	47.3533
Singapore	Dollar	0.491375	0.590633	32.9272
Australia	Dollar	0.626560	0.753125	41.9860
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.206989	2.652801	147.8910
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221829	0.266638	14.8648
Brunei	Dollar	0.489928	0.588893	32.8302
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020336	0.024444	1.3627
UAE	Dirham	0.226528	0.272287	15.1797
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.202000	67.0103
Argentina	Peso	0.279646	0.336134	18.7391
Brazil	Real	0.372736	0.448029	24.9772
Denmark	Kroner	0.133993	0.161059	8.9789
India	Rupee	0.018443	0.022168	1.2358
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220442	0.264971	14.7719
Mexico	New Peso	0.076551	0.092014	5.1297
New Zealand	Dollar	0.583126	0.700918	39.0755
Norway	Kroner	0.128586	0.154560	8.6166
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013940	0.016756	0.9341
South Africa	Rand	0.126609	0.152184	8.4841
Korea	Won	0.000788	0.000947	0.0528
Sweden	Kronor	0.105458	0.126760	7.0667
Syria	Pound	0.016027	0.019264	1.0739
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024730	0.029726	1.6572

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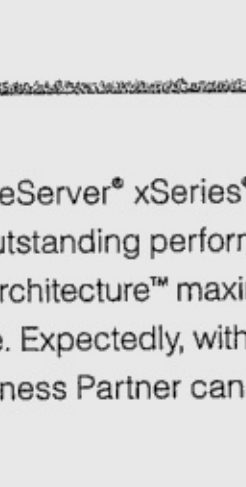

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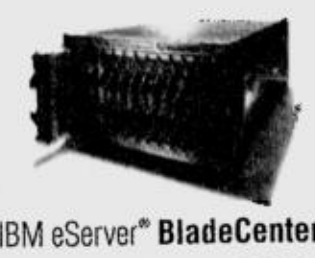

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Worried about bird flu? Wash your hands

SOUTH Korean health officials inspect a rice field frequented by migrating birds which can spread bird flu. REUTERS

LITTLE CAN BE done to prevent an outbreak of bird flu if it comes in the next year or so before vaccine production can get started, health experts caution. But they say commonsense measures can help individuals protect themselves.

Number one, they say, is handwashing—a surprisingly effective way to prevent all sorts of diseases, including ordinary influenza and the H5N1 virus that everyone now fears may jump into humans and cause a catastrophic pandemic.

Number two: do not try to buy your own personal supplies of Tamiflu, one of two drugs shown to work against avian influenza.

And number three, stay home if you do get sick.

Cutting transmission

Old-fashioned hygiene works very well, experts agreed.

"You wash your hands and you cut the transmission of a bunch of diseases," said Dr. Jeffrey Griffiths of Tufts University School of Medicine in Massachusetts.

This is because any type of influenza is mostly passed hand to mouth. People sneeze and wipe their noses, then touch a microwave button. Or particles from a cough land on a tabletop, only to be picked up on someone else's finger.

While viruses can be suspended in the air in droplets, doctors agree they are much more commonly spread on the hands.

Alcohol-based gel or foam hand sanitizers also work well to destroy viruses and bacteria.

Not a panacea

Once someone is infected, two drugs are effective: Roche and Gilead Sciences' Tamiflu, and GlaxoSmithKline's inhaled powder Relenza. Countries are stockpiling them now.

But Dr. D.A. Henderson, who helped lead the effort that wiped out smallpox and who founded the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh, said it would be a mistake for individuals to try to buy the drugs now.

"I think Tamiflu is being regarded now as the panacea of all panaceas," Henderson said.

Henderson and other experts say that while Tamiflu might help cope with an outbreak of H5N1, it is not going to offer outright protection.

For one thing, stocks are limited and it will take years for Roche to ramp up production, even if, as is being discussed now, it licenses generic versions to be made by other companies.

Drug resistance

One should also remember that the more widely any drug is used, the more likely the virus or bacteria it targets is to develop what is known as resistance, meaning the drug becomes less effective.

Both Tamiflu and Relenza treat a flu infection, making it less serious and perhaps making the illness last fewer days.

But they must be taken within 48 hours of the first symptoms to do any good.

They can also prevent infection with garden-variety flu if taken, for example, by a family member caring for a sick relative. No one knows if they will do the same with H5N1.

When to take the drug

"If you were to take it as a preventative you'd have to take it for probably weeks, a pill a day, 75 milligrams a day is what they recommend," Henderson said.

And the average person is not going to know when, precisely, to begin taking the drug.

Many infections look like flu, said pediatrician and immunologist Dr. Anne Moscona of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York.

"If you have Tamiflu at home and you take it for a cold or give it for a respiratory virus that is not influenza, we will be unable to use these drugs when we encounter a lethal strain of flu," Moscona said.

Stay at home

If people do get sick, they must be careful to stay home from work and not spread viruses.

"Not exposing yourself to others is the best thing you can do for public health," said Dr. Chris Woods of Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina.

But if people are forced to go out while ill, wearing a face mask would be a responsible thing to do, although it is unlikely to protect against infection.

"People have asked, 'Should we wear masks?,'" Henderson said.

Studies show that people usually breathe in so forcefully when they wear a mask that they end up sucking in unfiltered air from around the sides, he said. *Reuters*

Bird flu chronology

NEW OUTBREAKS OF POTENtially lethal bird flu have been reported in China, Russia and Romania, fueling fears of a global influenza pandemic as governments scramble to decide how best to respond.

The following is a timeline of how bird flu took hold in Asia before emerging in Europe:

May 1997. A 3-year-old boy becomes the first of six people to die in Hong Kong of a mysterious virus, later identified as H5N1, the first known human deaths from the strain.

December 2003. South Korea confirms an outbreak of the virus and slaughters more than 2.5 million chickens and ducks in a bid to halt the outbreak. A different strain, H7N7, is said to be responsible for the death of a veterinarian in the Netherlands, who visited an infected farm.

January 2004. Vietnam says the suspected number of human deaths has risen to 13 as Taiwan announces an outbreak of a different strain of bird flu. Outbreaks are reported in Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, China, Pakistan and Thailand.

February 2004. First cases confirmed in the United States and Canada while in Thailand the virus is detected in a panther, a tiger and domestic cats.

August 2004. Three new deaths confirmed in Vietnam and an outbreak reported in Malaysia.

January 2005. First fatal human case reported in Cambodia. Three more will follow.

March 2005. North Korea officially announces it is affected by the disease.

July 2005. First of three fatalities announced in Indonesia.

August 2005. Confirmation that the disease has spread to Kazakhstan, Mongolia and the vast Russian region of Siberia.

Oct. 7. Ducks in the Danube delta in Romania are reported to be infected. The virus is confirmed as H5N1 eight days later.

Oct. 13. The infection that has killed thousands of turkeys in north-western Turkey is confirmed as H5N1.

Oct. 17. Discovery of the first case in Greece, on the island of Oinousses, close to the Turkish coast.

Oct. 19. China reports that a new outbreak has killed 2,600 birds on a farm in its northern Inner Mongolia region. Russia reports spread of disease to its western province of Tula and Romania confirms the presence of new cases. *AFP*

Pomegranate power

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

OVER THE YEARS, TOMATOES, blueberries, red wine, green tea, and chocolate have found a place on the list of antioxidant-rich foods. Pomegranate juice, which has higher antioxidative properties than green tea and red wine, can now be added to that list. Research indicates it could be beneficial for patients undergoing cancer treatments. In fact, it might even prevent cancer.

At least, this is what researchers from the dermatology department at the University of Wisconsin say in the Oct. 11 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal. Studies by other researchers working with pomegranates have presented similar results.

The current work was led by Hasan Mukhtar of the UW Medical School. On the university's website, he describes his lab as one focused on the prevention of tumorigenesis in prostate and skin cancers by means of "naturally occurring dietary substances."

Prostate cancer

Three of their papers on the effects of green tea and pomegranate juice were published earlier this year in the International Journal of Cancer, one of which showed that pomegranate juice topically applied to the skin of mice actually prevents tumor growth.

In this recent paper, the researchers hypothesized that pomegranate juice, with its antioxidative properties, would also prove beneficial to prostate cancer (CaP) patients.

Thousands of men worldwide are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year, with fairly dramatic differences in the numbers per country. The statistics suggest that the incidence rate is higher for black men compared to white males, but is still lower for Asians.

Cancer cells

For the experiment Mukhtar et al. injected 24 male nude mice with a solution of human carcinoma cells that were allowed to develop into tumors. Eight mice served as the controls and were given plain drinking water. A day after the cells were injected, another eight mice began receiving water laced with 1 percent pomegranate fruit extract (PFE) while the remaining animals were given a 2 percent PFE solution.

The juice concentrations were based on the assumption that an average healthy human would drink 250 to 500 ml of pomegranate juice daily.

Retarded tumor growth

Mukhtar et al. noted that it took about a week for the tumors to start appearing in the control group. Tumor growth was retarded in the mice receiving PFE, developing 11-14 days after the carcinoma cells were injected.

Mukhtar et al. euthanized the mice after their tumors reached a volume of 1,200 mm3.

The control group lived 28-34 days after injection, while the 1 percent PFE group lived 36-42 days, and the 2 percent PFE group lived 43-51 days.

Blood taken from the mice at intervals showed a correlation between prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels, tumor growth and PFE concentrations. The lower the PFE concentrations given to the mice, the higher their PSA levels, and the less likely that their tumors' growths were inhibited.

In humans, high levels of PSA proteins, which are produced by the prostate, are correlated with increased likelihood of prostate cancer, although PSA levels can also be elevated for other reasons.

Personal research

Mukhtar et al. looked at the pathway by which apoptosis or cell death was being triggered. They found out that PFE affected molecules involved in the G1 phase of the cell cycle (which is between mitosis and DNA replication and is characterized by cell growth).

The researchers concluded that the results "suggest that PFE inhibits the growth of carcinoma cells through cell cycle arrest and induces apoptosis... Based on the present findings, it is tempting to suggest that...pomegranate and its associated antioxidants may possess a strong potential for development as a chemopreventive and possibly therapeutic agent against CaP."

Human clinical trials to prove these results are not likely to begin anytime soon, but a visit to the supermarket in search of the pomegranate might not be a bad way to start a little personal research into this claim.

What science agencies do

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

"THERE ARE MANY AGENCIES in the science department, aren't there?" a student asked me recently. "But we are not familiar with most of them. What do they do?"

Information about the activities of these agencies seldom reach the public, and although these developments may be small, they are significant. The Second Quarter 2005 issue of the S & T Post (a publication of the DOST) details the following events.

Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI). Executive assistant Ma. Theresita Patula and and senior research scientist Geraldine Lugod report that the Bayanihan Linux thin client manager, an open-source solution with server-based management features for simpler installation and administration, was launched last February in Cebu and Davao.

Training was held at the University of San Carlos and in key areas in Davao City, facilitated by DOST and NGOs that promote open-source technologies.

The project aims to catalyze the use of the technology in public and private organizations. It hopes to maximize computing resources by converting old machines in diskless client computers to enable organizations to pursue computerization efforts with minimal expense.

Accounting system

Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD). Framelia Anonas reports that PCASTRD became the first agency in the DOST to fully implement a new government accounting system to ensure correctness, reliability and timeliness in recording financial transactions.

The Electronic New Government Accounting System (e-NGAS) was prescribed by the Commission on Audit to modernize government financial management.

At first, PCASTRD personnel found the new system difficult, but now they sing it praises, pointing out its speed, efficiency and accuracy. Transition from the old, manual system to the new electronic system was facilitated by six months of intensive training.

Energy efficiency

Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development (PCIERD). Information officer Ma. Aileen Alcos writes about the agency's efforts to audit production costs in steel firms. Two Japanese energy conservation experts assisted personnel from PCIERD and the Philippine Iron and Steel Institute in their auditing visits to the Steel Corporation in Batangas, Primary Steel Corporation in Valenzuela City, Pagasa Steel Corporation in Pasig City and Union Galvasteel Corporation in Laguna last February and March.

The team recommended the application of insulation, improvement of furnace burning, minimization of air leakage, among others. Equipment modification, preventive maintenance, lighting improvement, and employee awareness can also reduce electricity consumption.

Last year, the team conducted a similar audit in other firms, and most of the factories now report improvements in energy efficiency.

Tropical fabrics

Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI). Malou Flores reports that DOST officials and employees will be wearing new sets of uniforms made of tropical fabrics this year. Under Republic Act 9242, all fabrics to be used for uniforms and other purposes (such as linen and drapery) shall contain at least 5 percent abaca, banana or pineapple fibers, and 15 percent silk. Firemen's uniforms, sports uniforms, bulletproof vests and the like can be exempted from this law if the tropic fabrics do not meet safety requirements. PTRI tests fabric standards.

Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI). Senior research scientist Mindaflor Brandares reports that a recycling styrofoam project was launched last June by ITDI and the Polystyrene Packaging Council of the Philippines. Under the contract, IDTI will design a unit to melt styrofoam, which prevents gas emission. Molten styrofoam can be made into tabletops, chair armrests and other items that can be combined with construction materials.

Shellfish tiles

Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMRD). Chief senior research scientist Dr. Dolores Fernandez cites an innovative project on converting shellfish waste into tiles. Dr. Felizardo Ubando and Rosalinda Nones of the Nueva Vizcaya State University have found that indigenous or recycled materials like common shells from mussels and snails can be made into tiles. Tiles are preferred by many householders because of their durability, cleanliness and easy maintenance.

The shells are washed, boiled, air-dried, pounded, molded, dried and tested. The ground shells are mixed with styrofoam, resulting in grayish tiles similar to granite. The shells are a source of calcium oxide, which makes these tiles quite strong. Each tile costs P4.10, while a commercial tile costs P10 per piece. To be commercially competitive, the researchers recommend that the tiles be tested further to determine endurance. They also said the tiles should be glazed properly.

Dog pounds resort to euthanasia to control stray animal population

By Marlet D. Salazar

TO CONTROL THE spread of rabies, local governments round up stray animals in the streets and put them in pounds. And because of the Filipinos' growing fascination for pedigreed dogs and cats, many native dogs and cats locked up in pounds end up in death row when nobody comes to claim them.

The number of stray animals is overwhelming and the city pounds can hardly accommodate the increasing number of captured animals. This causes a problem because when a pound is overpopulated, there is a higher risk of the spread of diseases.

Dr. Bubut Carlos, head of the Marikina City Veterinary's Office, said it was cruel if animals were congested in cages inside the pounds.

"That is tantamount to animal cruelty," he said.

The Marikina city pound can hold 100 to 150 dogs, but an average of 400 dogs, cats and other animals are caught in just a month.

Pounds, and even some animal shelters, thus have to resort to euthanasia. But the manner on how to "exterminate" the animals differs in each pound.

Humane procedure

The Philippine Animal Welfare Act of 1998 allows the extermination of animals for population control. But it says the killing should be done through "humane procedures."

Carlos says a procedure is considered humane when the animal does not suffer.

"One of the requirements in euthanasia is the immediate loss of consciousness followed by death," he said.

In the Marikina pound, a solution is injected into the animal. Two drugs can be used for the procedure: one to put the animal to sleep and the second to stop the heart.

This process is recommended by animal welfare advocates in the country. It is also used in private clinics to end the suffering of an ailing animal.

But it comes with a hefty price tag: A 100 ml bottle of the most commonly used euthanasia solution costs around P2,800. Each dog, depending on the size, would need around 2 cc to 3 cc.

Shooting the dogs

The Puerto Princesa pound in Palawan, which can house 66 dogs, resorts to pointblank shooting of the animals. Jackie Baut of the Palawan Animal Welfare Association said the procedure was "feasible and more affordable."

"It is fast and painless for the dog because it gives instant death," she said in an e-mail interview. "The dog clinically dies at the moment of impact."

A sharpshooter uses a caliber .22 gun with non-expansive high-velocity bullets. The animal is placed in a cage and is shot between the eyes.

"The animal suffers minimal stress and expires in a fraction of second," Baut said.

A licensed veterinarian and a non-government representative like Baut must always be present during the process.

Baut does not share the popular sentiment that lethal injection is better than any other form of animal population control.

"It takes a long time for the animal to die," she said. And sometimes, to save money, the best drugs are not used.

One bullet costs around P3, according to Baut. She said that in 10 percent of cases, the dog has to be shot twice to assure complete death.

DR. BUBUT Carlos and animals at the Marikina dog pound. ROGER CARPIO

Gas chamber

Some dog pounds resort to the use of carbon monoxide to euthanize captured animals.

Several dogs are herded into a "gas chamber," where the tailpipe of a vehicle is connected. If the procedure is correctly carried out, the dogs will fall asleep, then die.

Carlos said a veterinarian must always be present during the process to ensure that the animals do not suffer. The vet must be able to see the condition of the animals through a small glass window.

"There should be light inside the chamber because the dogs must be calm," he said. "Dogs get worried in dark spaces."

According to the Humane Society International (HSI) website, the use of carbon monoxide has many limitations, making it less practical, considerably slower, and more expensive than lethal injection.

Animals under 4 months cannot be killed using the process because they have a resistance to hypoxia (oxygen deficiency).

"It is absolutely unacceptable to use carbon monoxide for the euthanasia of dogs and cats who are old, under 4 months of age, sick, or injured," the HSI said.

Carbon monoxide is also hazardous to the humans performing the procedure. HSI advised that the gas chamber be used with extreme caution, and proper guidelines must be put in place to ensure both a humane death for the animals and safety to humans.

Carlos said controlling the population of animals in pounds or shelters is inevitable.

"We have been catching animals for years. We have killed hundreds, yet we never run out of dogs and cats here in the pound," he said.

Responsible pet ownership and education are still the best ways to control the increasing population of stray animals, he said.

"Spaying and neutering prevents them from producing more puppies and kittens that will only be left in the streets," he explained.

If only animals knew how to practice birth control, then perhaps there would be no need for euthanasia. Their reason for being in the death row can never be blamed on them.

In-flight emergencies: a doctor's nightmare

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(Conclusion)

IN-FLIGHT MEDICAL EMERGENCIES ARE expected to increase as more elderly passengers fly longer distances and patients with heart, lung or other medical conditions take long-haul flights. These patients who are relatively at-risk expect airlines to be ready to handle medical emergencies in-flight.

MEDICAL FILES

When confronted with a medical emergency, the pilot has to make that critical decision whether or not to divert the flight and make an emergency landing somewhere. Most pilots would rely on the evaluation and recommendation of a doctor on board.

The most common reasons for diversion of flights due to medical emergencies are cardiac incidents (heart attack, heart failure, cardiac standstill), neurological problems (strokes, convulsions, marked restlessness), and food poisoning. Other causes include severe and uncontrollable pain or bleeding, major injury with shock, impending birth, and uncontrollable mental disturbance.

In-flight death

An American study of 1,132 in-flight emergencies showed that 173 patients (15 percent) were admitted to a hospital, with an average stay of 2.8 days, and 15 patients (1.3 percent) died.

In-flight deaths can be a nightmare not only to the victim's companions, but also to the airline crew and the medical personnel and other Good Samaritans who respond to the call for help.

The official airline figure on in-flight deaths is small, i.e. one death per 1.5 billion to 4.7 billion passenger miles flown. It is likely, however, that death rates are underreported because of bad publicity, and even if the patient has already expired in-flight, he/she will sometimes not be declared dead until arrival at the hospital.

Air travel, especially long-haul flights, can be stressful physically and mentally; and it can directly or indirectly precipitate medical problems, even in previously healthy travelers. Getting to and through huge airports, missing a connecting flight, misplacing one's passport or boarding pass, and carrying heavy bags are just some of the stressors a traveler may encounter.

Some try to relieve their anxiety by smoking more while waiting for the flight or drinking at the bar. Three quarters of medical emergencies during travel occur while travelers are still on the ground.

Reduced oxygen

Once in the air, there is less oxygen available in the cabin. The reduced oxygen should not affect a healthy passenger, but it may affect those with compromised cardiovascular or respiratory systems or blood disorders.

Shortness of breath may be due to myocardial insufficiency or lung disease, but in some over-anxious travelers, it might just be due to hyperventilation. This is more common in women, but may also occur in men. They're noted to have rapid, shallow breathing with stiffening of the extremities, which to some, may look like a fit or seizure. This can be helped by breathing into one of the readily available paper bags.

The dry cabin atmosphere can also dehydrate the body and if one is taking an antihypertensive medication, the dehydration may bring down the blood pressure to markedly low levels.

The dry air also irritates mucous membranes and for those with allergic rhinitis, asthma or chronic bronchitis, this can be a major source of problem.

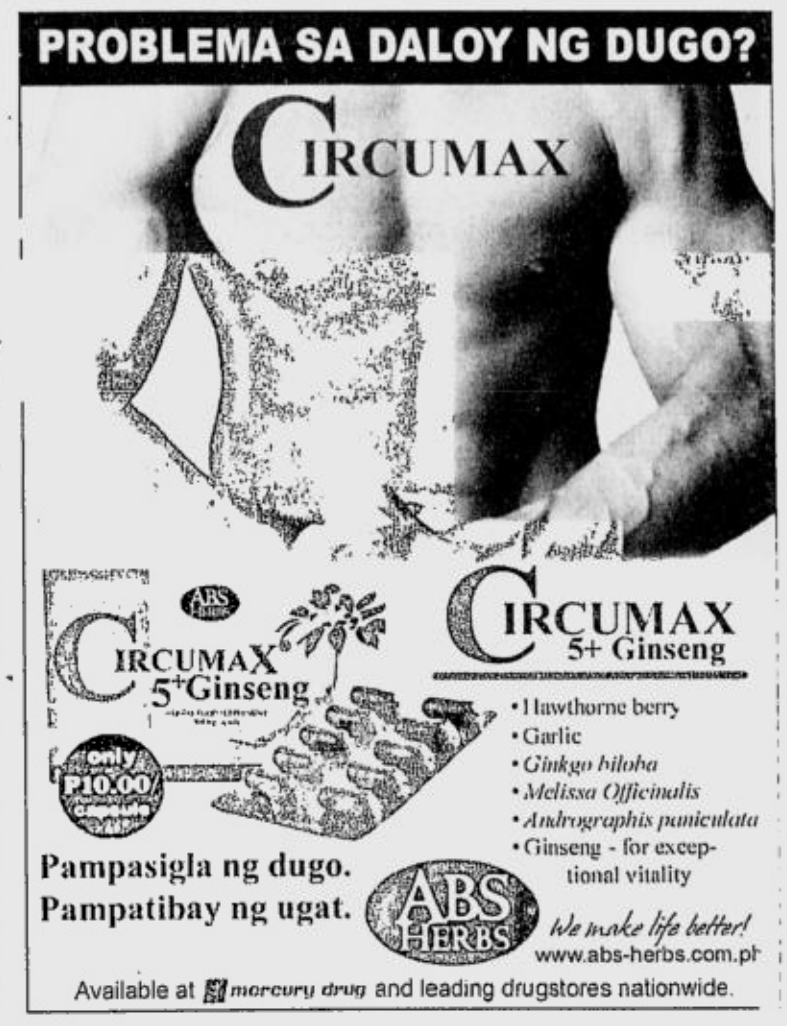
Drinking extra fluid helps a lot, but drinking alcohol can aggravate it. The intoxicating properties of alcohol are enhanced at high altitude and medical literature report a condition called "air rage" that can make some passengers who have had a drink too many do irrational, even violent things on board.

Altered meal times

Time zone changes and altered meal times can cause diabetics taking either insulin or antidiabetic drugs to become hypoglycemic (low blood sugar). Diabetics must always have a candy bar and eat it promptly at the earliest signs or symptoms of hypoglycemia (dizziness, cold sweats, rapid heart rate).

Passengers on strict drug regimens, such as for heart disease, asthma, allergy and epilepsy, should always have their regular maintenance and emergency medications in their handcarry. These patients should ask from their attending physicians a concise certificate stating their medical problems just in case they develop an untoward event in-flight or while traveling abroad.

Restricted space in most seats promote venous stasis and can hamper the circulation. Regular stretching exercises and walks when the seat belt sign is turned off are recommended.



Pharmaton raffle for trip to Switzerland

MIND AND BODY EXERCISES MAY only be done in one country: Switzerland. Get there for free while experiencing the mind and body benefits of Pharmaton capsules.

Pharmaton capsules, with the only clinically proven Swiss formula, is staging its first-ever raffle "Win the Pharmaton Swisstakes," which started Oct. 14 and will end on Jan. 16.

The grand prize is a trip for two to Lugano, Switzerland, with accommodations for three days and two nights plus pocket money and tours.

Pharmaton capsules are special supplements that enhance one's physical and mental well-being.

They contain a carefully blended mixture of vitamins, minerals, trace elements, mind-enhancing deanol and power-building standardized panax ginseng that helps increase oxygen uptake significantly and improves mental and physical performance.

All it takes is just eight empty foils of Pharmaton capsules to join the promo.

On a piece of paper, write your name, address, landline and cell phone numbers, store where the product was bought, and indicate if your being a current Pharmaton user.

Sign the entry and send to Quali-Central Sourcing Inc., 1 CJ Caparas St., Barangay Ugong, Pasig City 1600.

Over a thousand premium items such as sport watches, Swiss army knives, radios, bags, silk ties and MP3 players will be raffled off in the bi-weekly draws starting on Oct. 28.

Take control of your mind and body with Pharmaton capsules and take your mind and body to Switzerland in the Pharmaton Swisstakes. Join now!

Visit www.pharmaton.ph for details.

3 in 1 hair regrow products now in RP

PRODUCTS THAT ARE GUARANTEED to provide healthy-looking hair, regrow new hair and reduce thinning hair are finally in the country. Avacor, the leader in hair regrowth in the United States, offers unique products that will certainly work on all hair types for both men and women.

Avacor has easy to use 3-in-1 products that fight and reverse hair loss. The Scalp Detoxifying Shampoo cleanses the scalp of pollutants and regulates the buildup of excess oil. The Physicians Topical Solution helps regrow the hair as well as nourishes and strengthens existing hair. The Oral All Natural Nutricap maintains healthy hair follicles since the capsules contain a 100 percent natural and safe proprietary herbal formula that helps keep the hair follicle in the best possible condition.

Another new product is the Avacor Boost, the new hair thickening serum which will give users visible thicker hair after the first application. Avacor products are available at selected Watson's outlets.

HEART WATCH

Check Your Knowledge about Cholesterol

How much do you know about cholesterol and its effects? Take the test to find out:

1) Which is known as "bad" cholesterol?
   a. Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) Cholesterol
   b. High-Density Lipoprotein (HDL) Cholesterol
   c. Total Cholesterol
2) True or False: Exercising for at least 30 minutes a day can help lower your bad cholesterol level.
3) Which food contains cholesterol?
   a. Oranges
   b. Tuna
   c. Broccoli
   d. Peanuts
4) True or False: Statins are drugs that inhibit production of cholesterol in the liver.
5) True or False: Plaque in the arteries is largely made up of LDL cholesterol.
6) Which of the following is a risk for people with high cholesterol?
   a. Heart Disease
   b. Heart Attack
   c. Stroke
   d. All of the above
   e. None of the above.
7) If you have heart disease, what should your bad cholesterol level be?
   a. 130mg/dL or lower
   b. 120mg/dL or lower
   c. less than 100mg/dL
   d. None of the above
8) True or False: People with high cholesterol should choose nonfat or low-fat dairy products.
9) True or False: Good cholesterol helps remove bad cholesterol from your arteries.
10) Which of the following inhibits the absorption of cholesterol in the intestinal tract?
   a. Bile acid sequestrant
   b. Ezetimibe
   c. Fibric acid

Check your responses with the answer key below. Knowing about cholesterol is a good start. The next step is to consult your doctor to determine your bad cholesterol level. Depending on the test results, your doctor may advise you to simply shift to a therapeutic lifestyle or prescribe lipid-lowering medication to complement the lifestyle change. Ask your doctor about dual inhibition and how Schering-Plough's two-in-one pill, Ezetimibe-simvastatin, can help you manage your bad cholesterol level.

Answers: 1) A; 2) True; 3) B (all food from animal sources contains cholesterol); 4) False (though 30 minutes on most days is recommended, you need not do it all at once); 5) True; 6) D; 7) C; 8) True; 9) True (Good cholesterol is HDL cholesterol); 10) B

A public service message from Schering-Plough

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

TM supports Domestic Workers Summit

MORE THAN 200 LOCAL DOMESTIC workers recently gathered for an unprecedented Domestic Workers Summit held at the Skyline Riverbend Hotel, Marikina City. The summit was backed by leading grassroots organizations like International Labor Organization (ILO), Anti-Slavery International, Plan Philippines and TM, the prepaid cellphone service for the Pinoy blue collar worker.

Apart from providing the masses with affordable cell phone services, TM (formerly Touch Mobile) has been actively advocating for the empowerment of the Filipino working class through its public messages and grassroots initiatives, which include employment assistance and recreation via popular sports such as billiards, boxing and basketball.

"TM firmly believes in the Pinoy working class' capabilities and their strong drive to improve their quality of life through decent and hard work. By participating in this important event, we lend our support to the domestic workers as they work towards uplifting their sector of society," said Nonie Busuego, head of TM.

Carrying the theme "Domestic Work is Decent Work," the 3-day event served as a springboard for the organizers' campaign to empower the domestic work sector by elevating the level of discussions on programs and policies affecting them at the national policy-making level. Summit convenor Maria Cecilia Flores-Oebanda noted that the event successfully gathered together not only representatives of the sector from different provinces but also their leaders and advocates as well as key personalities from the employer's associations, the government, media and other major social institutions.

The "Kasambahay Bill" seeks to regulate domestic work as a form of employment. Its major features include the setting of a minimum age requirement for domestic work at 15 years old and the increase in their minimum wage. The bill also seeks to make 13th month payments to domestic workers mandatory, as well as membership in PhilHealth and Social Security System, assurances of days off from work and, more importantly, formal contracts for employment.

TM's support for the Domestic Workers Summit proves that beyond providing affordable and relevant connectivity services, they are also committed to make a real difference in the lives of this segment by advocating societal changes.

RED CROSS PARTNERS WITH GLOBE FOR SMS-BASED DONATIONS

Globe Telecom, along with Paysetter International, has partnered with the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) to enable SMS-based donations through its innovative mobile commerce service, G-Cash, and its peer-to-peer reloading service, Share-a-Load. The funds raised will be used for training and relief programs in the Philippines as well as assistance to victims of calamities abroad, such as the recent earthquake in South Asia. Globe subscribers who wish to donate to the Red Cross via Share-a-Load can simply text RED <space> <amount> to 2899. Donations can be made in the amounts of P5, P25, P50, P100, or P300. To donate through G-Cash, text <amount> <your G-Cash PIN> and send to 28829178733277. Formalizing the partnership through a contract signing at the Westin Philippine Plaza were Globe head of VAS product management Rina Azcuna, Globe head of wireless business Ferdz dela Cruz, PNRC Chair Richard Gordon, Paysetter CEO Eugene Enriquez and Red Cross director for fund management, Gwendolyn Pang.

ABS-CBN, NAITAS: PARNTERS IN TOURISM

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp strengthens its initiative in promoting local tourism as it enters into an agreement in tourism cooperation with National Association of Independent Travel Agencies (Naitas). In photo are Naitas chair Robert Lim Joseph (left, seated) and president Angel Ramos Bognot (right), with ABS-CBN president Luis Alejandro signing the agreement. Witnessing the ceremony are (from left) Naitas secretary general and trustee Jole Dizon, Century Park GM Paul Gill, DFA Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin, DOT Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab and Naitas VP Marites Sotto.

DOLE USES GENESYS ASSESSMENT TESTING

GENeSYS Assessment Testing is now available in the Philippines through its exclusive licensed distributor Business Process Evolution, a division of Q2 HR Solutions. Widely regarded as one of the world's leading computer-based assessment tools, it is used and trusted by over 2,000 of the world's leading organizations, throughout Europe, Asia, Australasia and Africa. Being the Human Resource division of the government, Dole Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas recently availed of GENeSYS and has been implementing the system in her department as she aims to further improve organizational development within the government. Photo shows Sec. Sto. Tomas signing the contract with Brendan Whyte, president of Q2 HR Solutions and Cameron Francis, managing director of Harbour Future Leaders, the regional distributor of GENeSYS in Australia with Trixie Limbo Whyte, general manager of Q2 HR Solutions and Mharicar Castillo, division manager of Business Process Evolution (BPE), a division of Q2 HR Solutions.

SEA AQUATIC GAMES PARTNERS

Laguna Governor Lunlngning Lazaro presents the bust of Dr. Jose P. Rizal to Dr. Ramon Ricardo Roque, CESO I, Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives and Vice President for External Relations and Development Initiatives of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa) as symbolic gesture formalizing the partnership of the Provincial Government of Laguna and Pasa in hosting the SEA Games (Aquatics - swimming, diving and water polo) in November 2005. In photo are former national swimmers who now manage Pasa.

A better alternative to relieve stress

NOWADAYS, FILIPINOS RUN THE RISK OF DEveloping various body pains, sickness and migraines than ever before, not because of unhealthy living but because of stress-related conditions.

But like the rest of the modern world, more and more Filipinos are beginning to realize that conventional drug therapy may not always provide the cure for stress-related illnesses. They are slowly embracing the concept of traditional Chinese medicine to help alleviate the discomfort of pain and illness once and for all.

Traditional Chinese medicine - Also known as oriental medicine, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is based on a 4,000-year old philosophy that health is innate; and maintaining wellness lies in the balance of the human body's own healing mechanisms. TCM represents a range of age-old procedures like Chinese foot therapy, Chinese body massage, herbal medicines, mind-body exercises and holistic acupuncture and acupressure.

Acupuncture is the insertion of very fine needles, (sometimes in conjunction with electrical stimulus), on the body's surface, in order to influence physiological functioning of the body. The World Health Organization (WHO) has cited medical acupuncture to treat over 43 conditions, including headaches and migraines, without the side effects typically associated with conventional drugs.

Acupressure is an ancient Chinese healing method that involves applying pressure to certain meridian points on the body to relieve pain. It has been known to relieve stress and tension, relax both mind and body, increase blood circulation, aid in the removal of toxic wastes, provide relief from head, neck and shoulder aches, promote the healing of injuries, increase energy levels, increase overall feeling of well-being and decrease labor pains.

SynergyMed Center, an outpatient medical facility, has a team of TCM-trained physicians from the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine that work together in all stages of patient care and management, ready to perform acupuncture and acupressure treatments in well-appointed rooms. SynergyMed Center also introduced Fusion Care in the country. It is a medical approach that blends modern medicine with TCM. Anchored on science, technology and research, modern medicine entails the administration of innovative drugs and medical procedures in patient care and management.

Advanced diagnostic procedures, executive check-ups, pre-employment annual physical examinations (APE) and diagnostic tests are also performed at SynergyMed Center as part of its services.

SynergyMed Center is located at the 23/F Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For more information, log on to www.fp-synergymed.com.ph.

BTS Clips

Shell art competition awards night

THE COUNTRY'S LONGEST running and most prestigious Students Art Competition gathered a record 1,277 entries in oil/acrylic, watercolor, sculpture and digital fine arts categories -- the most number of submissions made in the 38-year-long history of the competition. The Shell art season culminates in the awarding ceremonies for the 2005 National Students Art Competition awarding ceremonies on Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Floor, Activity Center of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The oil/acrylic division drew the most number of entries, with a total of 664.

Club G offers great discounts

SAY GOODBYE TO UNWANTED HAIR, AGE SPOTS, fine lines, wrinkles, and acne with Godiva Skin Station IPL treatments - now offered at slashed down prices exclusive to Club G members. Up to 60 percent discount on IPL treatments can be availed through Club G, an elite by-invitation-only club where members enjoy huge discounts on skin and body treatments, plus numerous rewards. There are three membership options, Silver, Gold or Platinum, which will entitle members to package discounts of 50 percent, 55 percent and 60 percent respectively. Other services such as facials, diamond peel, spider veins removal, warts removal, body massage, and non-surgical lift are also offered to Club G members at amazing discounts. Sign up to Club G now and enjoy loads of rewards. For more information, contact Karla Perez at 0921-7687387 and Emmalyne Prado at 0920-3417505 or call 751-6140 (Makati Bel-Air branch) and 939-1105 (SM Fairview branch).

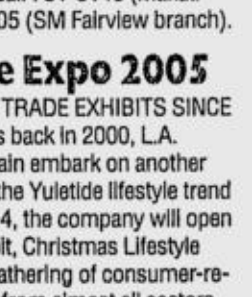
X'mas Lifestyle Expo 2005

ENGAGED IN ORGANIZING TRADE EXHIBITS SINCE 1993 and consumer exhibits back in 2000, L.A. Ducut & Co Inc will once again embark on another consumer exhibit targeting the Yuletide lifestyle trend of Filipinos. Come Dec. 2 to 4, the company will open yet another consumer exhibit, Christmas Lifestyle Expo 2005, a trendsetting gathering of consumer-related products and services from almost all sectors of the consumer product industry that eyes the Filipinos' penchant for celebrating Christmas in style. The expo will open its doors on Dec. 2 to 4 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. For details and other inquiries, contact L.A. Ducut & Co Inc at 873-8202, 873-1198, 873-8876 in Manila and at (032) 232-3729 or 3740 or 412-9463 in Cebu or (0917) 838-2183 (0916) 697-3207 or (0921) 455-2989 or (0916) 613-9179 or e-mail lifestyleexpo@laducut.com or visit www.christmaslifestyleexpo.com.

Ministop's 'barkada' promo

JUST IN TIME FOR SAN MIGUEL BEER'S POPular beer fest, Ministop is giving you the chance to treat your barkada to an all-out October merrymaking with its "Oktobeer Trip, October-kada Food Trip" promo. Lucky customers would get the chance to win a Gerry's Grill feast when they buy two bottles or cans of any participating San Miguel Beer products: Light, Pale Pilsen, Strong Ice, or Super Dry. And 10 winners will get Gerry's Grill gift certificates worth P10,000 each. Just write your name, address, contact numbers, and signature at the back of your receipt and drop in drop boxes located in any Ministop outlet. Entries can be submitted until Oct. 31 and the raffle draw will be held on Nov. 11.

O2 Asia appoints new CM



O2 ASIA HAS FORMALly announced the appointment of Lawrence Lee as the country manager - Sales for the Philippines. Lawrence will be responsible for managing the company's P&L and presence in the country. Under this umbrella of activities, he drives and executes all of O2 Asia Pacific's sales and retail marketing strategies for Hong Kong and the Philippines, and ensures that every channel and customer touch-point is consistent with the overall O2 brand experience. This includes securing more market share for O2 via fresh-thinking strategies and activity programmes, and managing a consistent customer experience across service levels, to deliver on the O2 promise of style and substance.

HOLCIM, MEISTER TRANSPORT MOA SIGNING

Holcim Phils, appointed recently Meister Transport Inc (MTI) as the exclusive agent and official Logistics Service Provider. Shown are (from left) Arlene C. Parsad - EVP, sales and marketing, MTI; Veronica Dar Santos - president, MTI; Roberto M. Lising - SVP, procurement, Holcim Phils Inc; Edwin P. Constantino - head, strategic sourcing, Holcim Phils Inc.

MONGOLIAN QUICK- STOP OPENS 5TH BRANCH

Guests of honor Congressman Dodot Jaworski (2nd from Left) cut the ceremonial ribbon during the opening of Mongolian Quick-Stop's 5th outlet at the 3rd level of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall last Sept. 9. With him are (from left): MQS franchisor Jun Pineda, president of Sta. Lucia Realty, Exequiel Robles and MQS franchisees Robi Ignacio, Marivic Ignacio and Carl Mauleon. Other outlets to make a quickstop are in Festival Mall, Alabang, PB Com Tower Makati, Robinsons Place Manila and Robinsons Galleria. Soon to open are Mongolian Quick-stop SM Foodcourt Makati, SM Sucat and SM San Lazaro. Call 850-4226 for catering services and other inquiries.

THE LAKESHORE'S FESTIVAL AT 5

Last Sept. 10, The Lakeshore Estate in Mexico, Pampanga, celebrated its 5th anniversary through a buoyant retro night at their newly hoisted multi-purpose tent. Celebrity guests including reigning Ms. Earth, Priscilla Meirelles of Brazil and Jomari Yllana whooped it up with Pampanga's prominent personalities, dancing to the music of the REtroSPECT band. Central Country Estate Inc (CCEI), owning company and developer of the acreage treated its associates and friends to express gratitude for making them the superior landed property in Central Luzon. Every year, CCEI recognizes and honors its top brokers for their remarkable support for the previous year. Last year's top ten are: Ma. Filipinas Sapnu, Maria Lourdes Reyes, Marlene Reyes, Josie Paras, Teresita Reyes, Glanlei Pintoy, Aurora Maglaqui, Lydia Garcia, Elsa Domingo and Mariano Manaloto. Shown are Carlo Jimenez, PR manager for CCEI, Jess Caguiran, architect Manglo, Mexico's Mayor Teddy Tumang, Emely Medina and CCEI's customer service officer Malou Villados

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-BID)

The **Department Of Education Division Office**, through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	:	**Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs**
LOCATION	:	Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	:	Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2004) Lot B: Secondary Armchairs (CY2004) Lot C: Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2005) Lot D: Secondary Armchairs (CY2005)
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE	:	Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), CY2004 and CY2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% Allocation)
CONTRACT DURATION	:	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES	:	"Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
		CY 2004				CY 2005			
DepED Division Office	Address (See Deped Website for details)	Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Armchairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Armchairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION I		718	861,600.00	923	507,650.00	1266	1,507,200.00	1955	1,075,250.00
1 ILOCOS NORTE	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	543	651,600.00	791	435,050.00	1056	1,267,200.00	1533	843,150.002
2 LAOAG CITY	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	175	210,000.00	132	72,600.00	200	240,000.00	422	232,100.00
REGION II		720	864,000.00	546	300,300.00	1,190	1,428,000.00	2,067	1,136,850.00
1 NUEVA VIZCAYA	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	720	864,000.00	546	300,300.00	1,190	1,428,000.00	2,067	1,136,850.00
REGION III		1100	1,327,200.00	1712	941,600.00	1816	2,179,200.00	5823	3,202,650.00
1 BALANGA CITY	Balanga, Bataan	-	-	-	-	135	162,000.00	298	163,900.00
2 ZAMBALES	Iba, Zambales	551	664,800.00	1712	941,600.00	1406	1,687,200.00	4023	2,212,650.00
3 OLONGAPO CITY	Olongapo City	552	662,400.00	-	-	275	330,000.00	1502	826,100.00
REGION IV-A		90	108,000.00	2,215	1,218,250.00	1,125	1,350,000.00	1,719	945,450.00
1 LIPA CITY	Lipa City	90	108,000.00	1063	584,650.00	90	108,000.00	1719	945,450.00
2 LUCENA CITY	Lucena City		-	1152	633,600.00	1035	1,242,000.00	-	-
REGION IV-B		2069	2,181,800.00	2672	1,376,412.00	6695	8,967,550.00	2825	1,360,279.00
1 ORIENTAL MINDORO	Calapan, Or. Mindoro	1720	1,703,000.00	2572	1,211,412.00	5094	6,246,350.00	2449	1,153,479.00
2 CALAPAN CITY	Calapan, Or. Mindoro	349	418,800.00	300	165,000.00	601	721,200.00	376	206,800.00
3 PALAWAN	Puerto Princesa City	1667	2,000,400.00	2088	1,148,400.00	6350	7,620,000.00	4434	2,436,790.00
REGION V		5385	6,402,000.00	8829	4,855,950.00	14584	17,500,800.00	18420	9,031,000.00
1 TABACO CITY	Tabaco City, Albay	323	387,600.00	352	193,600.00	480	576,000.00	444	244,200.00
2 LEGASPI CITY	Legaspi City, Albay	300	360,000.00	349	191,950.00	658	789,600.00	626	344,300.00
3 LIGAO CITY	Ligao City	327	392,400.00	331	182,050.00	559	670,800.00	458	251,900.00
4 CAMARINES SUR	Naga City	2881	3,433,200.00	5680	3,124,000.00	9616	11,539,200.00	11257	6,191,350.00
5 NAGA CITY	Naga City	174	208,800.00	564	310,200.00	469	562,800.00	521	286,550.00
6 IRIGA CITY	Iriga City	215	258,000.00	150	82,500.00	331	397,200.00	283	155,650.00
7 CATANDUANES	Virac, Catanduanes	580	696,000.00	649	356,950.00	1525	1,830,000.00	1797	988,350.00
8 MASBATE CITY	Masbate City, Masbate	300	360,000.00	289	158,950.00	520	624,000.00	544	299,200.00
9 SORSOGON CITY	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	305	366,000.00	465	255,750.00	426	511,200.00	490	269,500.00
REGION VI		4,338	5,601,150.00	6,854	3,824,700.00	8,584	10,276,800.00	12,730	7,001,500.00
1 AKLAN	Kalibo, Aklan	605	1,203,950.00	1,674	920,700.00	2,970	3,564,000.00		-
2 ROXAS CITY	Roxas City, Capiz	315	378,000.00	83	45,650.00	557	668,400.00	120	66,000.00
3 NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	Bacolod City, Negros Occ.	2530	3,036,000.00	4727	2,599,650.00	4588	5,505,600.00	10344	5,689,200.00
4 BAGO CITY	Bago City	250	300,000.00	470	258,500.00	215	258,000.00	981	539,550.00
5 KABANKALAN CITY	Kabankalan City	636	763,200.00		-	234	280,800.00	1285	706,750.00
REGION VII		7,257	8,439,560.00	13,726	6,649,877.60	17,547	20,478,680.00	31,736	15,141,190.40
1 BOHOL	Tagbilaran City	1,211	1,453,200.00	6,009	2,704,050.00	2,909	3,490,800.00	14,416	6,487,200.00
2 CEBU	Cebu City	3,602	4,322,400.00	5,287	2,907,850.00	9,386	11,263,200.00	10,242	5,633,100.00
3 NEGROS ORIENTAL	Dumaguete City	2,444	2,663,960.00	2,432	1,037,977.60	5,252	5,724,680.00	7,078	3,020,890.40
REGION VIII		4,960	5,952,840.00	1,260	694,050.00	11,565	13,856,332.00	4,294	2,348,450.00
1 LEYTE	Tacloban City	2,711	3,253,200.00	-	-	6,665	7,998,000.00	-	-
2 SOUTHERN LEYTE	Maasin Southern Leyte	574	688,800.00	-	-	613	735,600.00	-	-
3 MAASIN CITY	Maasin, Southern Leyte	-	-	-	-	234	257,400.00	300	150,000.00
4 NORTHERN SAMAR	Catarman, Northern Samar	1,388	1,665,600.00	1,035	569,250.00	3,465	4,158,000.00	3,619	1,990,450.00
5 CALBAYOG CITY	Calbayog City	287	345,040.00	225	124,800.00	588	707,332.00	375	208,000.00
REGION IX		412	491,400.00	371	204,050.00	660	764,000.00	429	235,950.00
1 ISABELA CITY	Isabela City	330	363,000.00	189	103,950.00	520	572,000.00	85	46,750.00
2 DAPITAN CITY	Dapitan City	82	98,400.00	182	100,100.00	140	192,000.00	344	189,200.00
REGION XI		6307	7,057,162.40	7517	4,134,350.00	13989	16,592,825.00	17097	9,403,350.00
1 COMPOSTELA VALLEY		1200	1,440,000.00	2271	1,249,050.00	3810	4,572,000.00	2999	1,649,450.00
2 DAVAO DEL NORTE	Tagum City, Davao	1317	1,580,400.00	1124	618,200.00	2897	3,476,400.00	2259	1,242,450.00
3 TAGUM CITY	Tagum City, Davao	400	480,000.00	630	346,500.00	680	816,000.00	573	315,150.00
4 PANABO CITY	Panabo City	457	548,400.00	453	249,150.00	635	762,000.00	627	344,850.00
5 IGACOS (SAMAL)	Samal	-	-	-	-	160	185,600.00	303	166,650.00
6 DAVAO DEL SUR	Digos, Davao del Sur	1112	1,315,162.40	2391	1,315,050.00	2750	3,252,425.00	5923	3,257,650.00
7 DIGOS CITY	Digos City	565	678,000.00	300	165,000.00	970	1,164,000.00	400	220,000.00
8 DAVAO ORIENTAL	Mati, Davao Oriental	1346	1,615,200.00	346	190,400.00	1997	2,396,400.00	4013	2,207,150.00
REGION XII		7450	8,940,000.00	4149	2,281,950.00	15375	18,450,000.00	7475	4,111,250.00
1 COTABATO	Kidapawan City, Cotabato	3131	3,757,200.00	1401	770,550.00	7092	9,590,400.00	1569	861,300.00
2 KIDAPAWAN CITY	Kidapawan City, Cotabato	212	254,400.00	205	112,750.00	273	327,600.00	421	231,550.00
4 GENERAL SANTOS CITY	Gen. Santos City	1100	1,320,000.00	998	548,900.00	1225	1,470,000.00		-
5 KORONADAL CITY	Koronadal City, South Cotabato	350	420,000.00		-	400	480,000.00		-
6 SULTAN KUDARAT	Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat	2457	2,946,400.00	483	265,650.00	4139	4,966,800.00	4198	2,308,900.00
7 TACURONG CITY	Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat	-	-	-	-	561	673,200.00	644	354,200.00
8 COTABATO CITY	Cotabato City	200	240,000.00	1062	584,100.00	785	942,000.00	646	355,300.00
CORDILLERA ADMIN. REG. (CAR)		632	758,400.00	1437	790,350.00	1055	1,266,000.00	1477	812,350.00
1 ABRA	Bangued, Abra	360	432,000.00	354	194,700.00	440	528,000.00	1477	812,350.00
2 BAGUIO CITY	Baguio City	272	326,400.00	1083	595,650.00	615	738,000.00		-
GRAND TOTAL --		42365.6	50,695,112.40	53557	28,353,689.60	98516	118,427,387.00	109264	57,024,869.40

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The **DepED Division Office** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on **October 28, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Office.**

Bids must be received on or before **November 10, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Office.** Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of not more than **Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Date of Publication : October 15 & 22, 2005
Newspaper : Philippine Daily Inquirer

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748705

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7889183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of 45 units Asian Utility Vehicles

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P36,000,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the supply and delivery of forty-five (45) units Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV)*, as follows:

Lot	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Any Wagon Type completely brand new, powered by 4-cylinder diesel engine with displacement not more than 2,500 cc. - with dual aircon, AM/FM radio and CD player - seating capacity of 10 persons - manual transmission, 5 speed with one (1) reverse	36	27,900,000.00
2	Any Wagon Type completely brand new, powered by 4-cylinder diesel engine with displacement not more than 2,500 cc. - with dual aircon, AM/FM radio and CD player - seating capacity of 10 persons - manual or automatic transmission - Keyless entry - All power - With alarm	9	8,100,000.00
	TOTAL		36,000,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of 45 units Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV)*. Delivery is required within 30 days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidders or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 2, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on November 16, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons — *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address — *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No. — *(632) 712-0454*
E-mail Address — *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No. — *(632) 712-0454*
Website — *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Oct. 15 & 22, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen. Pray this for 3 consecutive days without stating your wish. After the third day, your wish will be answered. Publish this once your wish is granted. Thank you.-E.S.C.

PerfectLogistics Phils., Inc.

Marcos Hi-way, Cainta Rizal (beside San Beniido Sch)

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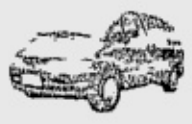

For more info, pls. Contact
Tel. Nos. 249-1818 Telefax: 249-1831
0917-8579153 Fred 0926-6911125 Emil
0916-2069813 Rey 0918-5886075 Jun

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
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CASE NO. CMRO-05-093

NOTICE

FOR THE PERMANENT ADOPTION OF SUBSEQUENT UPWARD OR DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT OF DEREGULATED RATES PURSUANT TO SECTION 2 RULE VIII OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF REPUBLIC ACT (R.A.) 9295

NOTE: *Should be applied at the MRO where the CPC was issued*

Applicant: Lapu-Lapu Shipping Lines Corporation		
Address: 872 M.J. Cuenco Ave., Lorega, Cebu City		
CPC issued on : June 28, 2005	Valid Until June 28, 2020	
Rider issued on, as applicable:		
Name of Representative: Alexander T. Cohon		
Upward Adjustment:		
☐ Passenger	☐ Cargo	☑ Passenger and Cargo
Downward Adjustment: N/A		
☐ Passenger	☐ Cargo	☐ Passenger and Cargo
Name of ship/s covered by the Entity/Company CPC: M/V Honey		
		M/V Lapu-Lapu Ferry1
		M/V Rosalia-3
Authorized Routes/Links per Entity/Company CPC:		
		Cebu City - Villaba, Leyte & Vice Versa
		Cebu City - Catalngan, Masbate & Vice Versa
		Cebu City - Hilongos, Leyte & Vice Versa

Proposed Adjustment of Schedule of Rates (Per Link)

Passage Rates

LINKS From	LINKS To	Type of Accomodation/Class	Rate	Amount Increase	Percentage Increase
Cebu	Villaba	upper deck	240.00	60.00	33.33%
		lower deck	230.00	65.00	39.39%
Cebu	Catalngan	third deck	415.00	35.00	9.2%
		2nd deck	395.00	35.00	9.72%
		main deck	375.00	35.00	10.29%
Cebu	Hilongos	third deck	200.00	25.00	14.28%
		2nd deck	190.00	25.00	15.15%
		main deck	180.00	25.00	16.12%

Cargo Rates

LINKS From	LINKS To	Type of Charge	Unit of Measure	Rate/ Unit		
Cebu	Villaba	general Class A	ton or	470.96	13.72	3%
		B	Cu. Meter	376.77	10.97	3%
		C		306.14	8.92	3%
Cebu	Catalngan	A		514.64	14.99	3%
		B		411.71	11.99	3%
		C		334.52	9.74	3%
Cebu	Hilongos	A		461.60	13.44	3%
		B		369.60	10.77	3%
		C		300.04	8.74	3%

Reasons for the Proposed Adjustment/s:
High cost of fuel, lube, supplies, parts, etc.

Previous Availment of Adjustment

Passage Rates

LINKS From	LINKS To	Type of Accomodations/Class	Rate	Amount Increase/Decrease	Percentage Increase/Decrease
		N/A			

Cargo Rates

LINKS From	LINKS To	Type of Charge	Unit of Measure	Rate/Unit	
		N/A			

RORO Rates

LINKS From	LINKS To	Type of Vehicle	Lane Meter	Rate/unit
		N/A		

Date of Effectivity (which shall be based/calculated on the date of publication and posting):
November 1, 2005

Date of Effectivity of previous adjustment of rates:(Indicate Type of Adjustment whether downward or upward for cargo and passenger):
N/A

Requirement/s/Conditions:
1. The shipowner/operator shall cause the publication of this Notice in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation, if the route(s)/area(s) of operation affected by the permanent adoption of subsequent upward and downward adjustment of deregulated rates to be served in national and/or inter-regional in scope. If the route(s)/area(s) to be affected are local or intra-regional in scope, publication in a newspaper of local circulation is sufficient;
2. The shipowner/operators shall likewise cause the posting of this Notice, including the date of effectivity, in all conspicuous places at the affected port(s), ship(s), company premises, passenger terminals and ticketing office(s), as applicable.
3. The MARINA shall cause the posting thereof at the MARINA Central or Regional Office and/or the MARINA website; and,
4. The adjusted rate shall take effect seven (7) calendar days from the publication in accordance with aforecited requirements/ condition number 1.

VERIFICATION & CERTIFICATION

I, Alexander T. Cohon, of legal age, married/single and resident of 872 M. J. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City after having been duly sworn by law, hereby depose and say, THAT:

1. I have caused the preparation of the foregoing notice.
2. I have read the contents of said notice, the contents of which are true and correct to best of my knowledge

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 20th day of October, 2005 at Manila, Philippines.

(Sgd.) Duly Authorized Representative of Applicant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 20th day of October 2005 at Cebu City affiant exhibited to me his/her Community Tax Certificate No. 13825615 issued on 01-27-05 at Cebu City, Philippines

(PDI - Oct. 22, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

REF. No. CL-05-10-0371

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *City Government of Zamboanga*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	Location/Office	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration / P.R. No.	Delivery Period
1 Job Order LIM Thermoplastic Markings	CEO	Thermoplastic Markings	2,999,612.33	100-05-09-2191	40wd
2 Fuel products	CHO CPSO CHO-Pairages Mem. SP CGSO CEO AGRI CEO CTO SP CMO CMO CEO SP AGRI SP	Gasoline & Diesel	309,450.00 660,715.00 52,500.00 74,308.98 310,551.30 174,781.00 158,938.00 491,674.00 79,387.60 74,310.00 157,400.00 120,096.00 57,452.00 51,027.33 58,271.50 74,274.84 2,033,137.45	100-05-09-1993 100-05-09-1859 100-05-09-2163 100-05-09-2147 100-05-09-1992 100-05-09-1987 100-05-09-2121 100-05-09-2198 100-05-09-2217 100-05-09-2210 100-05-10-2344 100-05-10-2345 100-05-10-2340 100-05-10-2341 100-05-09-2041 100-05-09-2050	20wd
3 Construction and Heavy Equipment Spare Parts	CGSO-STOCKS	Battery, Bearing, Cable etc.,	311,370.00 355,600.00 140,160.00 201,000.00 1,017,130.00	100-05-10-2298 100-05-10-2295 100-05-10-2294 100-05-10-2297	15wd
4 Drugs and Medicines	CGSO-STOCKS	Oral Rehydration Salt, Ampicillin etc	70,000.00 1,522,200.00 205,280.00 720,600.00 103,000.00 87,500.00 471,100.00 135,170.00 54,000.00 174,400.00 211,500.00 407,500.00 204,400.00 521,200.00 4,888,050.00	100-05-09-1931 100-05-10-2320 100-05-10-2304 100-05-10-2316 100-05-10-2307 100-05-10-2311 100-05-10-2314 100-05-10-2308 100-05-10-2310 100-05-10-2305 100-05-10-2319 100-05-10-2318 100-05-10-2317 100-05-10-2315	15wd

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	October 13-26 2005
2	Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at City Budget Office, City Hall Zamboanga City	October 14, 2005
3	Opening of Bids	October 27, 2005
4	Bid Evaluation	October 27 2005
5	Post-qualification	October 28, 2005
6	Notice of Award	November 3, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 Item nos. 1 & 2; P500.00 Item no. 3 & P 1,400.00 Item no. 4 to the City Treasurer.

The City Government of Zamboanga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA SAN AGUSTIN GARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 18 & 22, 2005)

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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372000 Fax 6350220
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OBITUARIES

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FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OUR BELOVED

Salvacion M. Madarang

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 18, 2005 at the age of 57.

A loving wife to **Von**, dear mother to **Gilbert, Lloyd, Joanne** & **PJ**, wonderful LOLA to **Gianna**, a cherished sister, and a beloved friend to all the lives she had touched.

Her body lies at Chapel 1, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on October 23, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 10:00 am after the 8:00 am Mass.

Our beloved mother

ANGELES FRES TAJON

Peacefully joined our Creator and our loving father **DIONISIO C. TAJON, JR. (†)** *on 20 October 2005 at the age of 75.*

We, her children **KATHRYN & GANI, ANTHONY & GINA, ANGELINA, DOMINIC & MALYN, CECILE & MARCO** and **GIL**; grandchildren **KAHLIL, DOMS, KAREL, CAMILLE, KARLA, PATRICK, TJ, GINO, CHOLO, ABIGAIL, RAJ** and **PHILIP**; sisters **EVANGELINE, EMMA, VIRGINIA, ELSIE** and **KATHY**; in-laws & relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be in Aparri, Cagayan.

"Praise the Lord who is good
God's love endures forever."

PILAR LABAYEN SISON

widow of the late Col. Francisco N. Sison, ret
(October 12, 1919 – October 21, 2005)

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 47 C.P. Garcia St., Poblacion, Alaminos City, Pangasinan.

Her children: **Tenny-Iggy, Boysong (†)-Lydia, Bits-Mimi, Eva-Peping, Kits-Cristy, Bert, Maribel-Hans, Raul-Loida, Mike-Arlene**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be tomorrow, Sunday, October 23, 2005 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass in Alaminos City Catholic Cemetery.

Dr. Vicente Camara Lavides, Jr.

of Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City
was called home to the Lord
on October 19, 2005 at the age of 77.

He shall be missed by his dearest wife **Angelina Nadres**, children and in-laws **Milette & Keith, Malou & Mike, Jojo & Ruby, Chito & Cecilia, Mae & Tuan** and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington East, 1354 C. Raymundo Ave., corner Mercedes Ave., Pasig City.

Interment will be on October 25, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Oh, how blessed is the promise when our spirit is set free;
To be absent from the body means to live, O Lord, with Thee!

Sa alaala ng mahal naming

Maria San Pablo Diaz

1905 - 1978

Ika-Isang Daang Taon Kaarawan

Ang karunungan at pagkalinga niya'y Biyayang mula sa Itaas.

Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis, Minnesota	Oct. 21, 12:00 noon
Cathedral of St Paul, St Paul, Minnesota	Oct. 22, 8:00 am
Espiritu Santo Church, Rizal Ave, Manila	Oct. 22, 7:00 am
Immaculate Conception Church, Sta Maria, Bulacan	Oct. 22, 6:30 am
Malate Catholic Church, Malate, Manila	Oct. 22, 6:00 pm
Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila	Oct. 22, 7:30 am
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Quiapo, Manila	Oct. 22, 6:00 am
Our Lady of Grace Parish, Grace Park, Caloocan	Oct. 22, 6:45 am
Our Lady of Fatima Church, Hiway Hills, Mandaluyong	Oct. 22, 6:00 am
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Retiro, Quezon City	Oct. 22, 6:30 am
Rooms-Kath,Postorie OL Vrouw, Bilthoven, The Netherlands	Oct. 22
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila	Oct. 22, 7:00 am
San Roque Cathedral Parish, Mabini, Caloocan	Oct. 22, 6:30 am
San Roque Parish Church, Rizal Ave, Manila	Oct. 22, 6:00 am
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Sta. Mesa, Manila	Oct. 22, 6:00 am
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati	Oct. 22, 6:00 pm
St. Anthony's Shrine, Sampaloc, Manila	Oct. 22, 6:15 am
St. Francis Church, Shaw Blvd, Mandaluyong	Oct. 22, 6:00 am
St. Joseph Parish, Juan Luna, Tondo	Oct. 22, 6:30 am
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Newark, New Jersey	Oct. 22, 12:15 pm
St. Nicolas Church, Jersey City, New Jersey	Oct. 21, 11:30 am
Sta Cruz Church, Binondo, Manila	Oct. 22, 8:00 am
Sta Maria dela Strada, Katipunan, Quezon City	Oct. 22, 6:50 am
Sto. Niño de Tondo Parish Church, Tondo, Manila	Oct. 22, 7:00 am

GUILLERMINA P. CALINGO

wife of Ambassador Mauro Calingo
Passed away on October 19, 2005 at the age of 96.

She is survived by her children **Roni** and **Mariegene Montoya, Mario** and **Rosemarie L. Ramos**, and **Maurito**.

Her wake is at Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will follow after the 8:30 a.m. Mass tomorrow, Sunday, October 23, 2005 at the Mt. Carmel Chapel.

Memories Expo: An Expo for the Death Care Industry

AS ALL SOULS Day nearly approaches, the Philippine Daily Inquirer together with the City Government of Manila presents the "Memories Expo," an exhibit specially organized to bring together different products and services related to the death care industry. The event is organized to coincide with the publication of Memories 2. The expo will feature different companies and showcase their services to the public from funeral parlors, pre-need plans, florists, grief counseling, columbarium, memorial parks, catering, NGOs and suppliers from candles, coffins, tombstones, urns, etc. We invite everyone to visit the exhibitor's booths and get to know the latest trends and information. This two day event shall be held on October 25 and 26 at the Bonifacio Shrine (beside Manila City Hall).

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region V, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID FOR FREIGHT SERVICES OF MORE OR LESS 18,000 BAGS NFA RICE FROM TABACO/LEGAZPI PORT TO ORMOC CITY

The National Food Authority, Regional Office, Legazpi City invites all qualified Vessel Owners with a minimum load capacity of 17,000 bags rice with standard weight of 50 kilograms to apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the provisions of freight services of more or less 18,000 bags NFA rice from Tabaco/ Legazpi Port to Ormoc port, Ormoc City.

Route	Estimated Volume For shipment (in bags of 50 kg)	Estimated Budget for the Contract to be Bid based on General Operating Fund
Tabaco/Legazpi Port to: Ormoc City	18,000 bags	P 525,600.00

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

	Activity	Date	Time
1.	Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	Oct. 21-26, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
2.	Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 21 to Nov. 2, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
3.	Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 3, 2005	10:00 AM
4.	Deadline for Submission of Bids/ Eligibility Check & Opening of Bids	Nov. 15, 2005	10:00 AM

The venue of pre-bid and bidding conferences will be at the 2nd Floor of NFA Regional Office No. V, Pier Site, Legazpi City.

The eligibility requirements and other bid documents can be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-transferrable/non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,500.00.

To provide ample time to examine the bidding documents and to prepare their respective bids, prospective bidders may secure the needed eligibility requirements and other related documents at the time the invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid is first advertised.

For further inquiries, you may contact the RBAC Secretariat in the following telephone numbers: (052) 480-7933 / 480-7015 / 480-7085 / 820-008 and fax number (052) 480-7900.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – October 22 & 25, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description :	One (1) lot Data Center Resource Monitoring Console and IT Laboratory Equipment per BSP specifications and scope of work
Approved Budget for the Contract :	P 10.0M
Contract Duration :	Within ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	22 October to 17 November 2005 (up to 2 PM only)
2. Pre-bid Conference	18 November 2005, 2 PM
3. Opening of Bids	29 November 2005, 2 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with
	) the prescribed periods allowed in the
5. Post-qualification	) Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)
6. Notice of Award	) A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – October 22, 2005)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Construction Management (CM) Consultancy Services for the BSP Branch Building in Buluan

The Scope of Construction Management work includes among others quantity surveying services, preparation of detailed estimates, value engineering, full construction management and supervision for the proposed BSP Branch Building in Buluan.

1. The **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas**, through the BSP 2005 Building Construction Account intends to apply the sum of three million one hundred seventy thousand pesos (P3,170,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for INFRA-2005-02. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for the construction management consultancy services. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs and accomplished Eligibility Documents on or before 14 **November 2005 / 1:30 PM** at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sts., Manila. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/ fail" basis. Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on Oct. 24 to Nov. 07, 2005 for a non-refundable fee of P500.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini St. cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted Letter of Intents and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of five (5) consultants.

   The firm's applicable experience (completed comparable and related consultancy services and know cases of prior performance) shall be used as criteria for short listing.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
5. The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:
   - 5.1 The consultant must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this invitation) engaging in the lawful practice of the type of consulting services called for in this invitation.
   - 5.2 The consultant must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertising/posting of this invitation) Construction Management consultancy services for at least five (5) completed new construction projects of similar nature/magnitude/complexity as the proposed BSP projects and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for the client for at least three (3) of the required five (5) projects.
   - 5.3 The principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect or Engineer with at least fifteen (15) years experience in actual construction work and construction management.
   - 5.4 The Project Manager for the projects must be a registered Architect or Civil Engineer with minimum fifteen (15) years experience in actual construction work, five (5) years of which experience in construction management.
   - 5.5 The Resident Construction Management Team should at least be Registered Architects/Engineers each with a minimum ten (10) years combined design/construction management and construction experience where the Construction Management experience should at least be five (5) years. The minimum number required for the team should be at least three excluding the principal and project manager.
   - 5.6 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint venture agreement shall be required. The joint venture must have rendered construction management consultancy services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.
   - 5.7 A consultant with at least two (2) on-going and/or awarded BSP consultancy projects at the time of this invitation will not be allowed to participate in this consultancy service requirement.
   - 5.8 For those firms with previous or current Design Consultancy Services with the BSP, a certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank must be submitted.
6. For inquiries, please call BAC Secretariat – telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.
7. The **Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas** reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – October 22 & November 4, 2005)

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or
Down
Be aware of what can you become.
Re-discover your greatness and be all that you can be.
Personal Awareness and Leadership seminar
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ABC of Sound Workshop

SINAG ARTS Foundation, a leading technical institution for theater in the country will conduct a three (3) day hands-on "ABC of Sound Workshop". This will be on November 7 Monday, to November 9 Sunday at Sinag Arts Studio. The workshop is for beginners wherein building blocks of sound, db, EQ, clipping, distortion and creating of sound will be discussed. This will be facilitated by PETA's resident lighting designer, technical director and Sound Engineer Jonjon Villareal.

For inquiries and reservation call Sinag Arts Foundation at tel.# 531-3491, telefax 531-9524, or e-mail us at sinagarts@yahoo.com.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com
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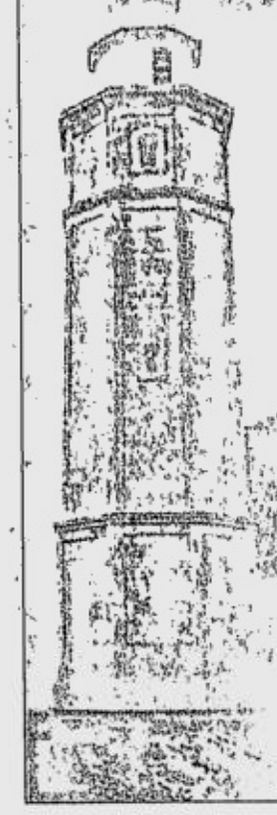


Just minutes away from Cebu City, there's an old lighthouse that's been literally drawing ships and good fortune to Cebu. Soon, that same lighthouse will be drawing good neighbors to it as well. Because around that century-old beacon will rise a premier seaside community, one of only a handful of neighborhoods around the world with its own functioning lighthouse.

Aptly named after the Spanish word for mooring rope, Amara will be your family's haven, a safe harbor where your loved ones can bloom and grow, surrounded by nature and the values that nurture families.

Coffee, tea or sea.

Already blessed by nature, Amara will likewise benefit from master planning by Ayala Land, one of the country's most prestigious and reputable developers.

An Esplanade will wind its way round the community to give everyone an unobstructed view of the sea. Amara will be dotted with gazebos, parks and playgrounds. And its centerpiece clubhouse will have an infinity pool, seaside decks and a beach bar to take in as much of the sea's majesty as possible.

Future phases will also feature a sports and recreational center with

not just the usual amenities but also a beach volleyball court and a gym facing a spectacular view. There will be the North Pier with a promenade and fishing deck, the South Beach Park and picnic grounds, a retail strip, and a school.

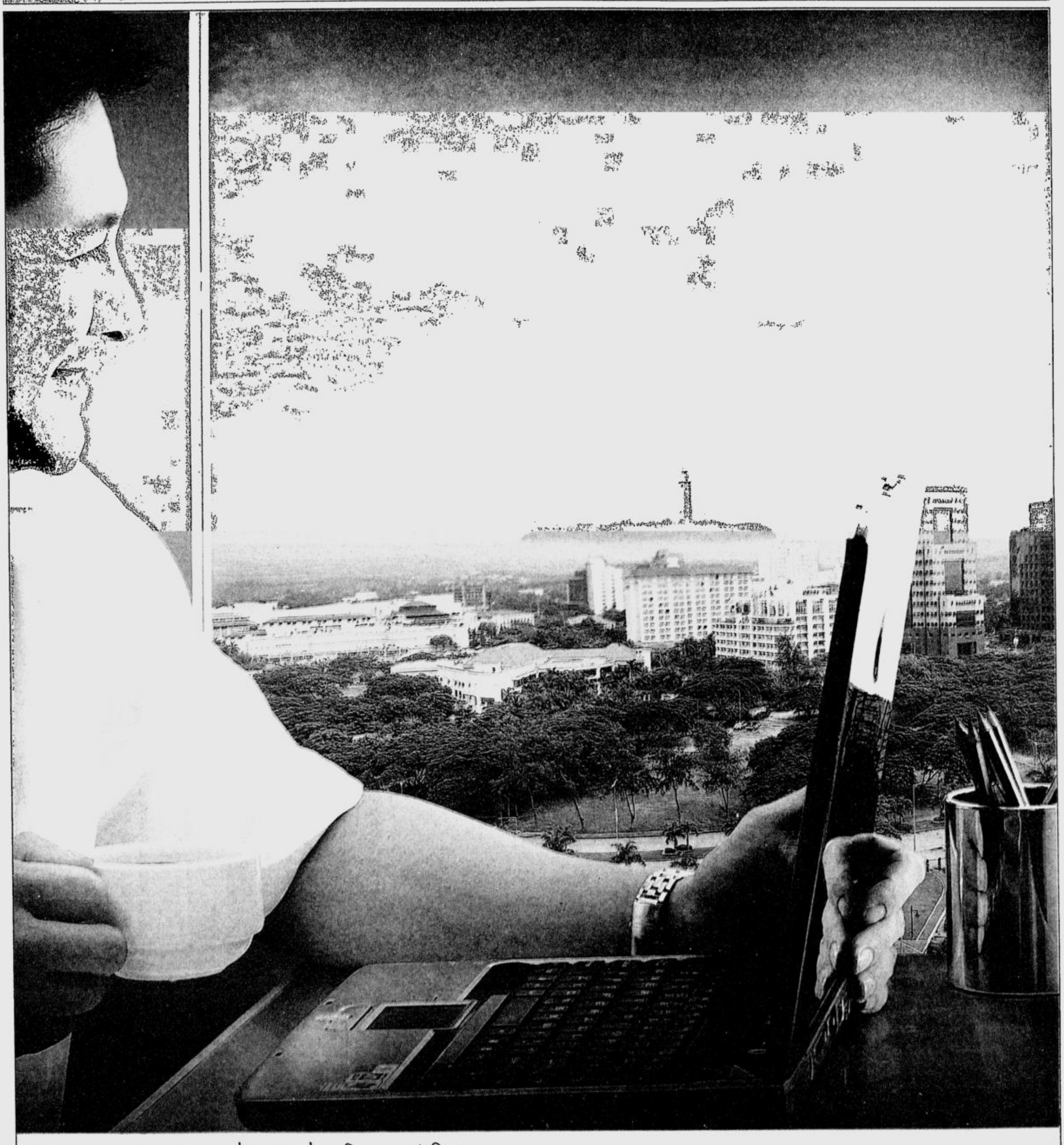
Know always where home is.

Know that Amara's constant light is your guide home. Awake every morning renewed by the sea. Watch the sparkle of stars and distant ships when evening falls. Know always that the light that has beckoned ships home to port for the last hundred years now also lights your way to haven, harbor, and home.

A joint venture of:

CEBU HOLDINGS INC.

Coastal Highpoint Ventures, Inc.



Know always where the light of your life is.

Time was, sailors at sea would see a lighthouse and sigh with relief. For then they would know they were near safety, comfort--even family and home.

Today, Amara rises as such a beacon at the tip of Liloan in Cebu. With its century-old lighthouse, it will be one of only a handful of authentic lighthouse communities around the world and the first in the country.

A premier Ayala community, Amara promises to be an ideal seaside neighborhood. With the bountiful sea in front and Cebu's mountains protecting its back, Amara is envisioned to make the most of its topography. The clubhouse, with its centerpiece infinity pool, opens out to the sea. A winding Esplanade and seaside decks will also give everyone an unobstructed view of the ocean. Future phases include a sports and recreation center, a beach park, a pier with fishing deck and other amenities for family activities.

Live in Amara and know that your spirit will always be refreshed by the sea. Know that generations of your family can commune with nature, and grow in the safety and comfort that is Amara.

for that

Amara

An AYALA Community

For inquiries: (6332) 231-5355 - CEBU • (632) 759-4894 - MAKATI • www.amara.com.ph

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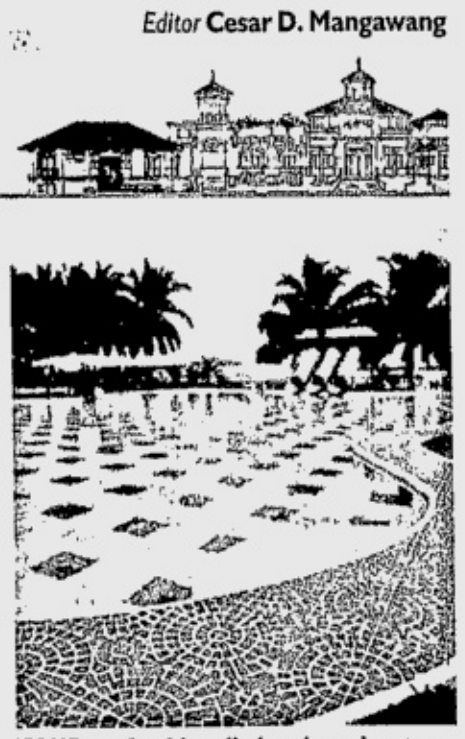
PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



Wonder Island: another reason to visit Calamba

By Charles E. Buban

THERE IS ANOTHER reason why vacationers should visit the City of Calamba in Laguna.

Famous for being the birthplace of the country's national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, its relaxing hot spring resorts, and picturesque view of the Laguna de Bay, Calamba is now also famous for this island resort which is a seven-minute-ferry-ride from its pier.

"Wonder Island Resort (www.wonderisland.com) is a perfect venue for any occasion, whether its just a day-tour, week-long vacation, reception, convention, business meetings and organization seminar," reveals its developer, Rodolfo Pua, who is Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba) national director for Luzon and Lion's Club District (301-A2) governor.

Pua says three-hectare resort offers outdoor pavilions, a 500-seat convention hall, picnic areas, cafeteria, chapel, camping area, landscaped gardens, spring water-filled swimming pools and jacuzzi, and activity areas to enjoy videoke, volleyball and aqua sports.

Houseboats

Perhaps, the highlight of one's stay at the resort is to enjoy a sumptuous meal aboard one of its two-level luxury houseboats.

"The cruise along the coastline of Laguna de Bay is absolutely spectacular. It affords our guests another way to enjoy the view of Laguna de Bay," promises Pua.

To ensure maximum enjoyment, comfort and safety, Pua personally oversaw the design and construction (and spent millions of pesos in the process) of these houseboats as well as ferryboats.

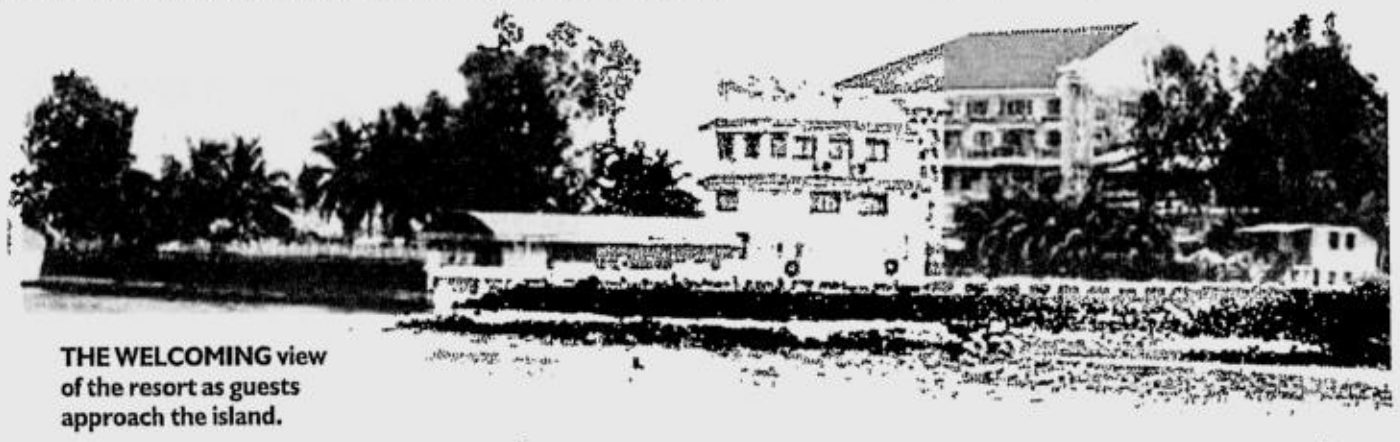
"These vessels are specially built since they were constructed to adapt to the shallow and fresh waters of Laguna de Bay," says Pua who even took a crash course on boat-making.

At present, the resort owns a collection of 26 boats, each reflecting the owner's keen eye for perfection.

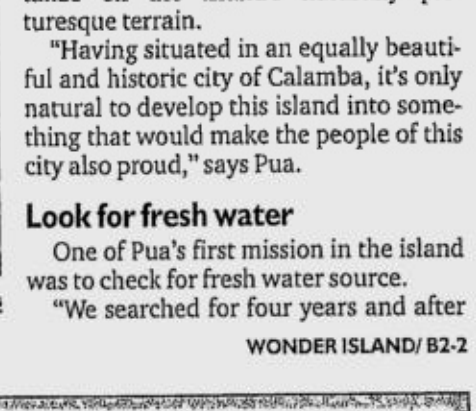
Special interest

Even when Pua was still a young boy, he has always had a special interest in the island.

"This island has always been the apple of my eye, so to speak. When I was still young, I remember myself occasionally going to the pier (in Calamba) and from there look as the island to enjoy the view and those fishermen passing by," recalls Pua.



THE WELCOMING view of the resort as guests approach the island.



TAKE a refreshing dip in mineral water-filled pool.

His admiration for the island soon became a mission when years later and he was capable enough to invest in the island, decided to build a resort and capitalize on the island's naturally picturesque terrain.

"Having situated in an equally beautiful and historic city of Calamba, it's only natural to develop this island into something that would make the people of this city also proud," says Pua.

Look for fresh water

One of Pua's first mission in the island was to check for fresh water source.

"We searched for four years and after

WONDER ISLAND/ B2-2

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Brittany CORPORATION

Noise pollution

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

NOISE, PARTICULARLY IN DENSE urban areas like Manila, is a form of pollution. Like air pollution caused by the emission of vehicles and factories, many Filipinos have come to accept it as part of everyday life.

Whether it is the sound of tricycles, jeepneys, buses, MRT/LRT, airplanes, jackhammers, sirens, or simply loud music—the Filipino seems oblivious. In many cases, he even adds noise to spice up certain celebrations. Some say that the Filipino's tolerance for accepting high noise levels has to do with culture and lifestyle.

Health problem

Whether one's tolerance level for noise is high or low, we cannot disregard what the World Health Organization says about noise. According to WHO, "noise is a health problem and is a major threat to human well-being."

The effects of noise are often transitory but can be cumulative with prolonged or repeated exposure. Noise-induced hearing loss can affect the quality of life through inability to communicate effectively with family and friends, sleep disruption, interference with teaching and learning methods among others.

It is important to understand the relationship of noise and the health of building occupants particularly in the design of buildings occupied by hundreds or thousands of people every day. This task becomes more challenging considering that more and more buildings are now constructed along very busy and noisy streets.

What can be done?

To address noise issues, there are four major activities that can be done by designers:

1. Proper site planning
2. Good architectural design
3. Appropriate construction methods
4. Noise barrier construction

Site planning

Noise can be minimized through the careful arrangement of buildings within a site by using its natural shape and topography. Nonresidential buildings or open spaces can be used as barriers to shield residential areas away from noise.

Increasing the distance between the noise source and the receiver can also be very effective. These techniques can be combined with the use of a cluster type of development.

This means placing houses together in groups or "clusters" to preserve ecologically sensitive open areas, historical sites, or other unique feature of the site being developed. In a cluster subdivision, open spaces can be located close to the street to reduce noise impact on the residences.

Architectural design

Noise can also be controlled in a building with proper architectural design. Through the arrangement of rooms and windows, balconies and building heights, noise can be reduced without costly acoustical construction.

In interior space planning, it is advisable to separate noise-sensitive rooms from less-noise sensitive ones. This can be done, for example, by locating bedrooms at the rear while using the other areas as sound buffers in front.

Windows are the most problematic part of a building with regard to noise control. Certain sounds like the rumble of trains are difficult to deal with. Their noise goes through the windows. Acoustic experts say that low-frequency noises are the most disturbing to people.

One way to solve this problem is through the design of the windows. The window unit consists of two glass panes. A laminated glass on the exterior and an operable glass on the interior, separated by an air space. The air space is also effective in reducing heat transfer.

Laminated glass is glass that has been covered with a strong transparent plastic to make it noise- and shatter-resistant.

Removing windows on the side of the building near the noise source can reduce noise further.

Noise can also pass through hollow-core type doors. It is advisable then to use heavy solid core doors that are sealed well.

The walls would also have to be heavily insulated and covered in paneling. A smart condominium unit occupant will look for sound-deadening ceiling and wall-panel finishes such as perforated ceiling systems to protect the hearing of unit occupants.

Balconies facing the street may be a practical feature of buildings but acoustically speaking, they may not be such a good idea. Balconies reflect traffic noise into the building interiors. Solution? Locate balconies away from traffic-noise sources.

Construction method

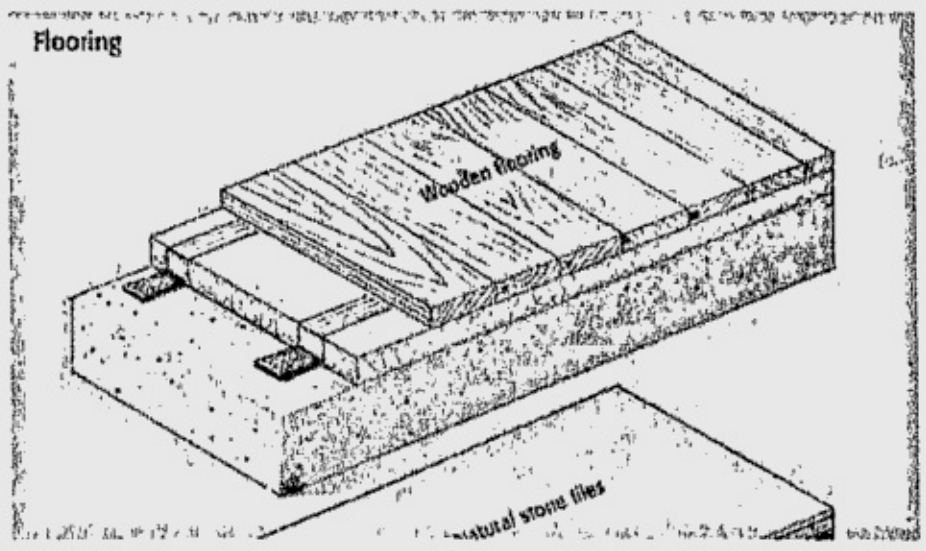
Walls give building occupants the most protection from noise. Their effectiveness in reducing noise depends on their mass and stiffness. In general, the denser the wall the more it will reduce noise. For example, concrete walls are better than wood walls with the same thickness. Another way is to double the thickness of a partition.

A good example is what is called the cavity wall. This is a wall made up of two or more layers separated by an air space. The air space is more effective and less costly than a single wall of equal weight.

Increasing the spacing between studs or nailers from 16" to 24" is also a good way to reduce noise.

Floating floors, although expensive, are effective noise reducers. A floating floor is made up of a wood or concrete platform placed over the structural slab but separated by a resilient material. The resilient material isolates the platform from the structural slab and the surrounding walls.

Thick carpeting, wall drapery and acoustic ceiling tiles also reduce interior noise.



A NOISE-REDUCING technique that can be adopted in buildings is the use of insulating coconut matting placed in between wooden battens on structural slab.
ILLUSTRATION: DIETMAR LOCHNER

Noise barrier construction

A noise barrier is basically an obstruction located between a noise source and a building to cut off the path of the noise. It can be made up of different materials such as earth berms, fences, cluster of plants and trees or a combination of these elements. (An earth berm is a sloping mound of earth.)

For a barrier to be effective, it must have the right amount of mass, height and distance from the noise source.

As many of our communities get noisier, more and more people will demand not only for beautiful buildings and homes but also comfortable, healthy and quiet spaces that are designed with noise-reduction features. Designers, developers and builders will have to include this health-related factor not as an option but as a standard.

The author is the chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards 2005 and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

South Forbes introduces first Sta. Rosa condo

AFTER INTRODUCING THEMED RESIDENCES that have been well received by the investors' market, South Forbes Golf City launches another first: condominium living in Sta. Rosa.

The Esplanade, a five-story Asian-modern structure at the entrance to South Forbes, will provide expatriates, top managers, and singles the ultimate form of convenience. They can shop, dine and manage a business at the ground floor. Upstairs, they can enjoy the view of the Bali Mansions community, the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club and Mt. Makiling.

Unique ambiance

The coffee shops and restaurants at Esplanade in front of South Boulevard will host a unique ambiance for al fresco dining facilities.

The sidewalk is 10.50 meters wide—even wider than that of Makati's Ayala Avenue—and is lined by tropical trees and colored paver blocks.

THE ESPLANADE will be the first lifestyle condominium project in Sta. Rosa.

Considering Sta. Rosa's cool weather as well and the good mix of shops that it will attract, The Esplanade will likely be the hip place to hang out in Metro Sta. Rosa.

Apart from coffee shops and restaurants, the commercial spaces in front of South Boulevard will be ideal for boutiques, convenience stores and retail shops. Regular guests will surely appreciate each shop's mezzanine floor for more intimate meetings or discussions. Meanwhile, the rear portion of The Esplanade is ideal for laundry, video and courier services.

Strong mix

The Esplanade's strong mix of clientele and regular patrons will surely come from the executives and managers of the nearby Laguna Technopark, the successful villages nearby including those of South Forbes, and of course the condominium residents.

A landscaped courtyard at the center of the commercial area serves as the focal point for both community and condominium activity.

The second to the fifth floors will feature residential condominium units from one- to three-bedroom flat units. Investors and buyers also have a choice of two-, three- and four-bedroom loft units.

Worthy investment

As with other projects in South Forbes, investors can expect quality building materials: top ceramic tiles, bathroom fixtures and built-in kitchens from Europe's No. 1, MFI.

Payment schemes for The Esplanade are attractive as well. Unit amortizations can be as low as P12,500 monthly—truly a worthy investment, considering also that each unit comes with a free membership to the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club, at absolutely no activation fee.

For investors who are considering a sure investment and lifestyle choice, The Esplanade offers an opportunity never to be missed. Call (02) 635-8108 or (02) 636-4643 now for a free tripping to the site or visit www.southforbes.com.

THE ESPLANADE offers an exciting array of boutiques and shops for the whole family.

AN ARCHITECT'S perspective of the Asian-modern interiors of the lobby of The Esplanade.

Wonder Island: another reason to visit Calamba

From page B2-1

six months of digging (that reached 305 meters deep), we finally found the spring water source we needed to start our development of the island," he reveals.

Pua even had the water tested by Chemical Solutions Ltd of Pennsylvania and according to the US-based company's Trace Elemental Analysis, the water meets the American standards for potable mineral water.

"The 'wondrous' water is rich in essential minerals such as calcium and iron, as well as trace elements manganese, copper and zinc, so its only natural for us to use this to fill up our swimming pools and Jacuzzis," reports Pua.

By ensuring a safe and steady source of water for the resort, Pua believes he now has the necessary ingredients to make Wonder Island a vacationers' haven that will further boost tourism in Calamba and nearby towns.

Pua adds: "I want to elevate the status of Wonder Island into a veritable tourist destination. Laguna de Bay, where the resort is located, is not only one of the country's most beautiful lakes, it is also the largest freshwater body in South East Asia. I believe we should benefit from these features."

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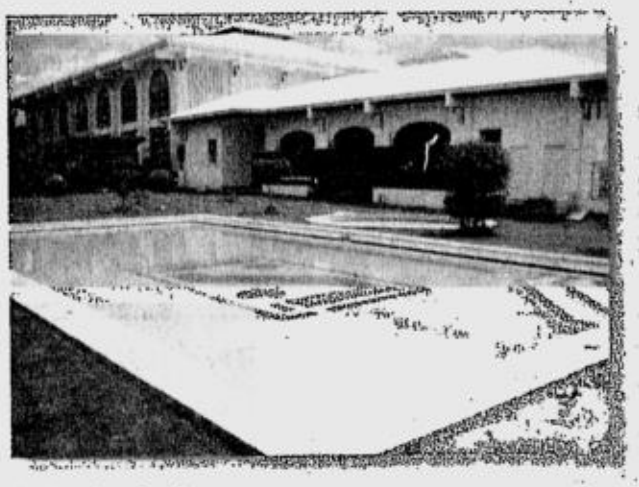
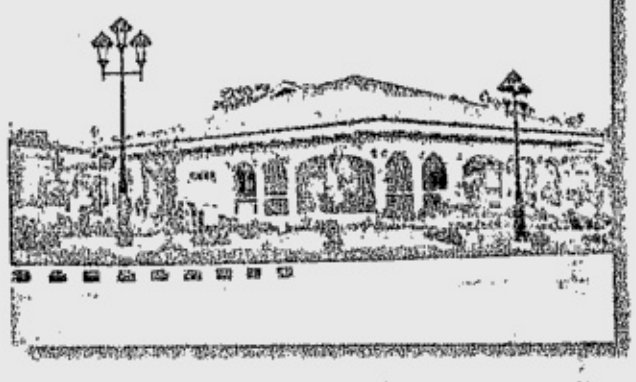
POSITIVE THAT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE 10 FRUITFUL YEARS AND FOR INSPIRING US EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. MARAMING SALAMAT PO.

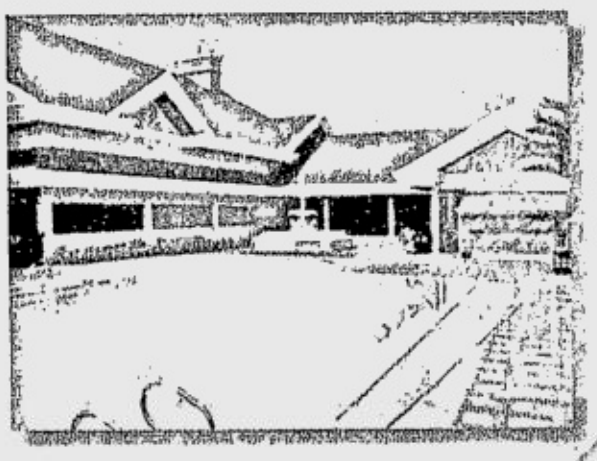


Swimming Pool
Twin Peaks at Vista Grande

Entrance Gate
Sotogrande Tagaytay



Clubhouse with Multi-Purpose Hall
Sotogrande Tagaytay



Clubhouse with Multi-Purpose Hall
Manville Royale

Golf Clubhouse
Rancho Palos Verdes

Clubhouse
Carmel Ridge

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A DECADE OF SUCCESS

New University Belt rises beside
South Forbes Golf City

Parents who are looking for a weeklong home that is near top schools have one clear, excellent choice: South Forbes Golf City. The reason is obvious. South Forbes' prime location in Metro Sta. Rosa gives residents convenient access to the South's new University Belt.

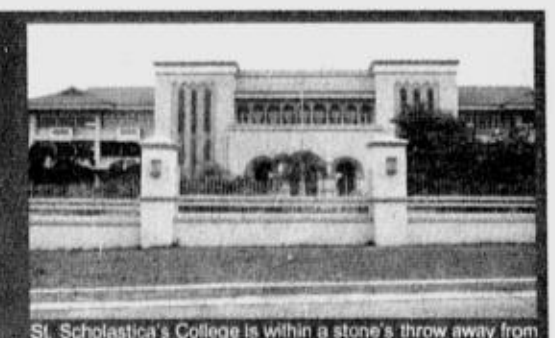
De La Salle University's sprawling campus is now fully operational. Ateneo holds classes for its Graduate School of Business at Paseo De Sta. Rosa. St. Scholastica's campus is at one end of South Forbes. Don Bosco's campus is just across Laguna Technopark.

Brent International School is in nearby Mamplasan. South Forbes also hosts Asia's first environmental school, Learning Links of Sta.Rosa.

Xavier School, University of Asia & the Pacific, and University of Sto. Tomas will be opening their campuses soon. This intense activity makes Metro Sta. Rosa the newest academic hub, the University Belt of the South.

A careful study need not be made to conclude why Sta. Rosa is fast shaping up as a U-Belt. Its natural environment, cool climate, and fresh air make for an idyllic campus atmosphere.

Future Champion: With his free South Forbes golf membership, dad can teach his kids how to play golf well.



St. Scholastica's College is within a stone's throw away from South Forbes Golf City.

De La Salle operates a sprawling campus near South Forbes Golf City.

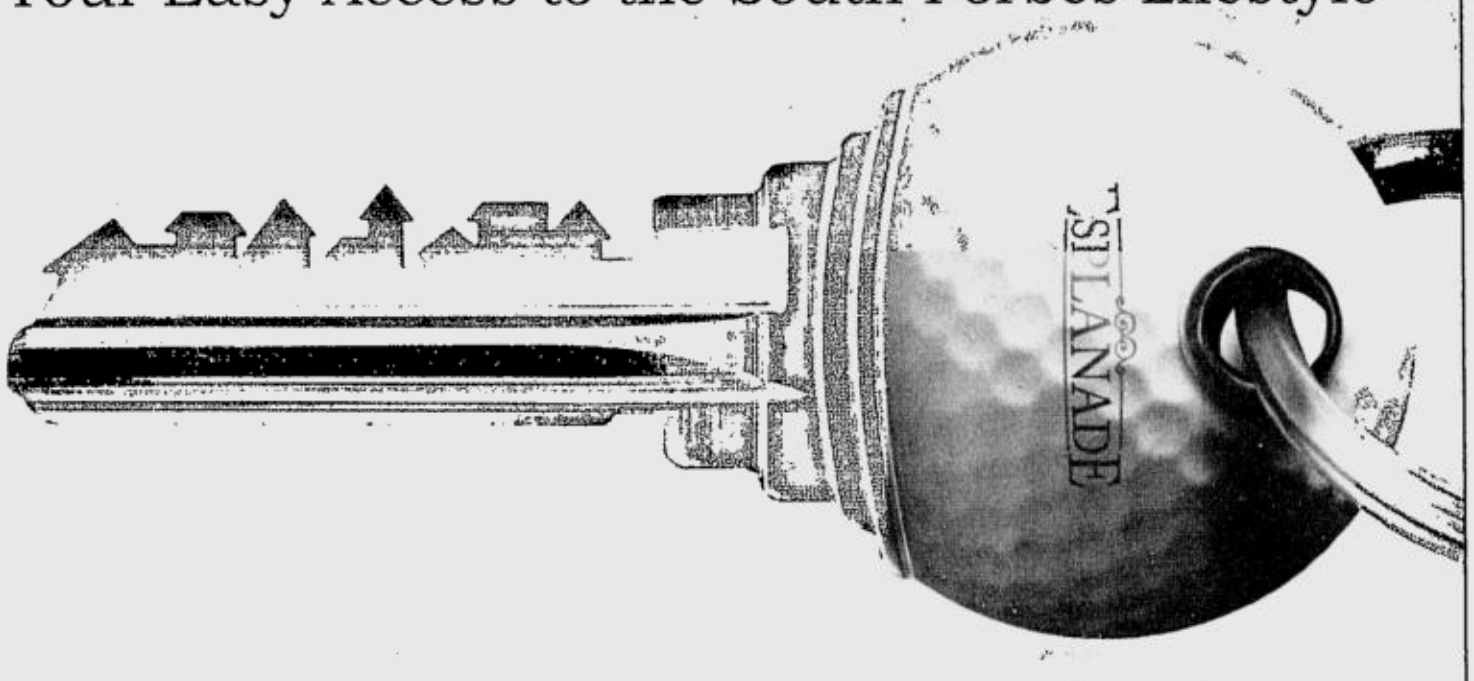
Now's the best time to invest in your children's future--for as low as P18,000/month at South Forbes Bali Mansions. Plus, you get a free golf membership to the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club and soon, start teaching your children how to play golf.

To view our 8 model Mansions and Villas, call 635-8108 or 636-4647 or visit www.southforbes.com

FREE Golf Membership!

ESPLANADE

Your Easy Access to the South Forbes Lifestyle



Be part of the privileged few to reside in the most innovative project of its kind to rise in Metro Sta. Rosa. Come and behold the spectacle that is Esplanade in South Forbes Golf City. With lifestyle shops located at the ground floor level and daily chambermaid service Esplanade is the convenient and practical way to experience the South Forbes lifestyle.

Life begins here at Esplanade, the fresh lifestyle development at South Forbes Golf City.

Champion Location: Metro Sta. Rosa

1 bedroom units as low as P12,500/month!

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Available in 1, 2 or 3-bedroom Standard and Loft units.

Enjoy the International Golfing Lifestyle for FREE

Only at South Forbes' Esplanade

Now, the international golf lifestyle is easily attainable for a select few!

South Forbes Golf City, the country's first fully integrated golf resort city by leading developer Cathay Land in Metro Sta. Rosa, is the first project ever to offer FREE GOLF MEMBERSHIP to the exclusive 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club, at absolutely NO ACTIVATION FEE.

The golf membership comes automatic with every condominium unit purchase at South Forbes' Esplanade. The first lifestyle condominium project in Metro Sta. Rosa, Esplanade offers unit owners the convenience of having lifestyle shops at the ground floor for a truly urban shopping and dining experience.

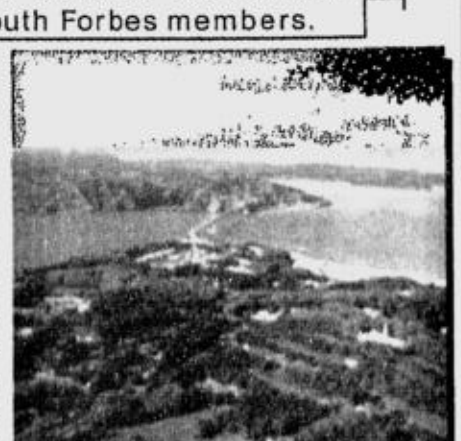
Designed by Asia's leading golf course designer, the International Management Group (IMG), the South Forbes Golf Club takes advantage of the site's mountainous terrain and features its lush tree cover as well.

As the first and only property of IMG SportsClub in the Philippines, South Forbes member-residents will enjoy preferential bookings and discounted rates in more than 42 world-class golf courses in the Asia-Pacific, North America, and Europe. These include the Nirwana Bali Golf Club in the tropical paradise of Bali, the Moonah Links in Melbourne, and San Francisco's Presidio Golf Course.

Inquire now to experience ultimate convenience at Esplanade and enjoy the international golf lifestyle! Call 635-8108 or 636-4647 or click www.southforbes.com.

Shopping Haven: The Esplanade offers an exciting array of boutiques and shops for the whole family.

Paradise: Nirwana Bali Golf Club offers preferred rates to South Forbes members.



Golden Golf: South Forbes members can soon tee off at the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco, near the famed Golden Gate Bridge.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

The next big thing just got bigger with The Parkwood

AYALA LAND PREMIER HAS UNVEILED NEW masterplanned section of its upscale residential development inside Ayala Westgrove Heights.

Dubbed The Parkwood (Phase 7), it is naturally surrounded by forested glens, with more pocket parks, trees and nature views that future residents can enjoy. This particular enclave benefits by having plentiful nature parks and being very close to the Westgrove Sports Center.

Community building

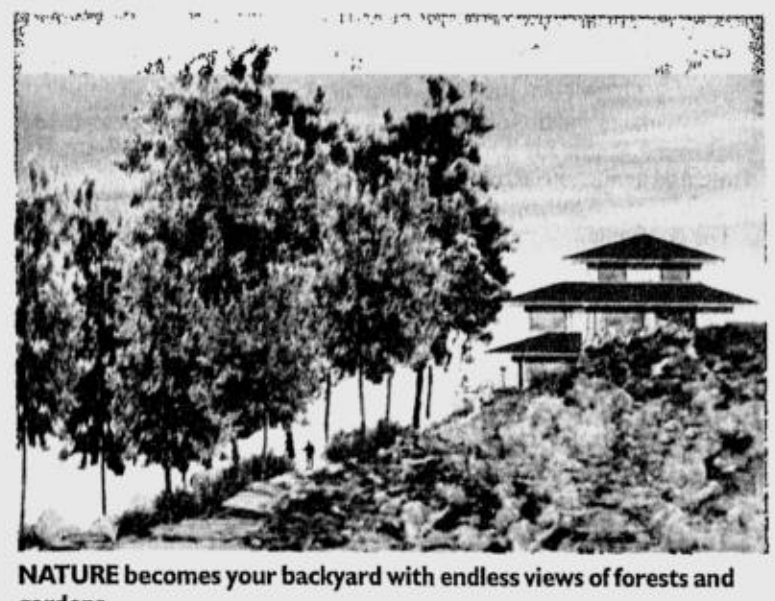
While Ayala Westgrove Heights' phase layouts are designed to foster community building, The Parkwood is a bit different from most of them, as it is designed to cater to people who especially value privacy, seclusion and a sense of serenity.

A forest buffer is incorporated in the design of this phase to separate future homeowners from the rest of the neighboring phases. With less than a hundred lots available and only one vehicular access leading to this enclave, exclusivity and heightened privacy are guaranteed to residents of The Parkwood.

For nature lovers

This new phase, with lots ranging from 400

THE NEXT/ B3-2



NATURE becomes your backyard with endless views of forests and gardens.

Imagine coming to a place

where the mountains slope gently to the sea.

Your idea of a private leisure retreat changes immensely once you see Anvaya Cove. This sprawling 320-hectare leisure development provides a spectacular view of the Silangin and Bataan mountain ranges and the calm waters of Subic Bay. With a peak elevation of over 130 meters above sea level, overlooking a 3.5-kilometer coastline. With two private coves and secluded beaches.

Verdant with rolling hills of thousands of mango and narra trees, and a wellspring of running water that flows towards the tranquil sea.

In the heart of this enviable, exclusive leisure community is the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club — a members-only gathering place amidst spectacular lagoon landscaping — for wining, dining and unwinding. Where the recreational amenities provide opportunities for bonding and unique experiences that all family members can share.

Own a slice of paradise and dare to live the life you've always wanted. Your exclusive membership in the Beach and Nature Club offers you options to extend this experience. Select a residential lot where you can build your dream vacation home. Or own one of a number of luxurious seaside villas located a short walk away from the main beach.

In your search for the ideal second home, there is absolutely no leisure community in the country that is as warm and inviting for your family as Anvaya Cove.

By Ayala Land, naturally.

THE MANGO GROVE, ANVAYA COVE'S SECOND NEIGHBORHOOD IS NOW OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS.

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The particulars, details and visuals shown herein are intended to give a general idea of the project and as such are not to be relied upon as statements of fact. While such particulars and details are based on present plans which have been prepared with utmost care and given in good faith, buyers are invited to verify their factual correctness and subsequent changes, if any. The contents herein are subject to change without prior notice and do not constitute part of an offer or contract. HLURB License to Sell Nos.: 12469 & 13414, SEC Registration Order No. 067, Series of 2005.

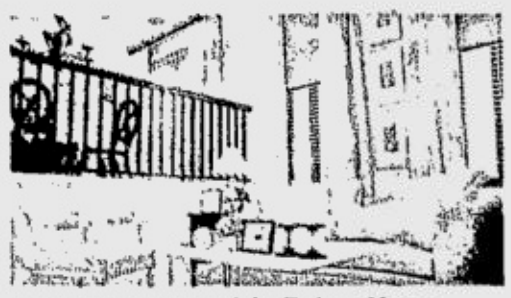
High returns for Canyon Ranch homes

GINA DE SILVA HAS BEEN WORKING AS A nurse in one of the premiere hospitals in Florida, United States for almost nine years now. Time and again, she sends money to her family back home to help in their expenses.

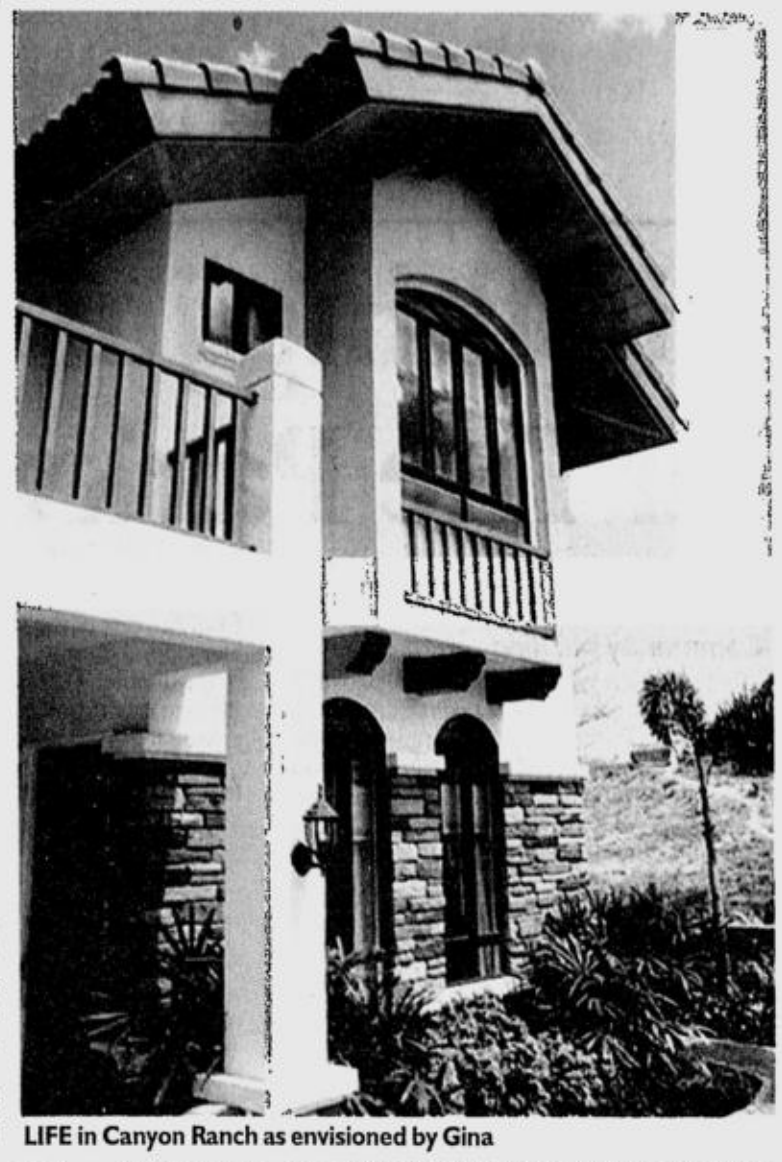
For the longest time, Gina has been planning to buy a property in the Philippines to give to her family and alleviate them of the mounting monthly rental rates (which by the way, eats up a big chunk of the monthly remittance money she sends them). Along with many of our overseas Filipino workers, she felt it was about time to make a solid investment.

So, when Gina came home to Manila for a brief visit, she took the opportunity to choose from the many pieces of property in the market, and in April 2004, decided to buy a home at Canyon Ranch in Carmona, Cavite—a flagship development of Century Communities Corp.

The three-bedroom, two-story house cost Gina P4 million with a payment term of 10 percent down payment, 60 percent payable in 36 months and 30 percent to be settled upon turnover. Today, Gina's house is selling at P4.9 million. And to think Gina's cash outlay to date has only been about P1.1 million. That is a high investment return of 82-percent based on cash outlay!



INTERIOR photos of the Delano Home House Model purchased by Gina.



LIFE in Canyon Ranch as envisioned by Gina

Masterplanned for life

A joint-venture project of Century Communities and Manila Jockey Club, Canyon Ranch is now the fastest selling homes in South of Makati with almost 300 homes sold since its soft launch last year.

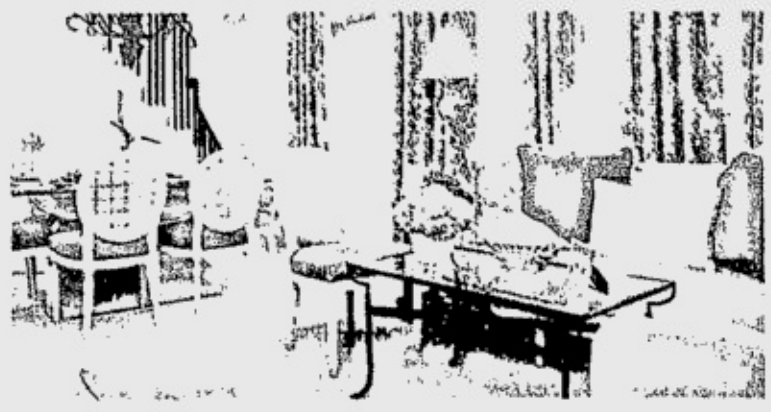
According to Century Communities managing director Marco Antonio, Gina is one of the company's many OFW clients who have made great returns on their investments. "It's a good story to tell and we have had a lot of happy clients," remarks Antonio.

Canyon Ranch a community development situated in Carmona, Cavite, is clear example of a development that encapsulates the exceptional growth and features of the property development. It is the country's only first-class residential community that is ideally complemented with terrain, location and climate.

Enviable location

Perched on the foothills of Carmona, Cavite, and part of the San Lazaro Leisure Park, Canyon Ranch is a perfectly orchestrated masterplanned residential development that combines the warmth of country living with the amenities of today's modern conveniences.

Barely 25 minutes and only for four exits away from Makati, Canyon Ranch serves as the perfect sanctuary from the city. It's a rare 10-story above ground hillside property that offers spectacular views of Laguna de Bay and the exquisite hills of Carmona. And because of its high elevation, Canyon Ranch residents get to enjoy that perfect cool Tagaytay-like weather.



Its prime location in the South also makes Canyon Ranch a gateway to Makati CBD, Tagaytay and other beach destinations in Batangas. Easy access is through the Carmona Exit along South Luzon Expressway or the Alabang Skyway. Very close are shopping destinations like SM Dasmariñas, Alabang Town center, Festival Mall, SM South Mall and Robinsons Mall.

Nearby schools are the De La Salle Canlubang, Woodrose, Don Bosco, St. Scholastica's College and Brent International Schools. For sports and leisure, world-class golf courses within the area are the Manila Southwoods, Sta. Elena and the Canlubang Golf and Country Clubs. Also nearby are the Asian Hospital and some of the country's major industrial parks.

The home collection

Each of the home collection at Canyon Ranch is built in classic two-story California-style with varying floor layouts and lot sizes to appeal to different lifestyles. Homes range from three- to five-bedrooms with floor areas of 80 to 280 sq m. There is also a two-bedroom duplex home at 50 sq m.

All are individually decorated and designed with view decks giving way to sweeping vistas of Laguna de Bay, Mt. Makiling, Antipolo and the world-class MJC racetrack. Homes are priced for as low as P1.6 to P13 million.

Community life

This inviting community of Canyon Ranch will make use of only 60 percent of its land area, leaving the rest for tree-lined streets, themed gardens, open spaces and community centers. Its residential community is also fully integrated onto the commercial complex C and a clubhouse.

Serving the needs of Canyon Ranch residents and its neighboring communities is a village center, which will serve as the commercial center. This two-story, three-building multiplex with complete promenade, water fountains and lush landscaping will house a fine selection of shopping, dining and entertainment establishments. Leading stores such as Chowking, Jollibee and Starbucks have already committed.

Inside the leisure park are a world-class standard twin oval horse race track and a four story state-of-the-art turf club building. Also planned are restaurants and bars, gaming and entertainment areas, an equestrian school and a riding academy. For exclusive use of the Canyon Ranch residents, the clubhouse offers an array of indoor and sports facilities and a library.

Brittany properties lure Fil-Am buyers

BRITTANY CORP., THE COUNTRY'S MAVERick developer of high-end, masterplanned residential communities with design themes inspired by the world's best destinations, said that as a result of its recently launched marketing campaign in the United States, Filipino-Americans now account for the bulk of its property sales to balikbayans.

Buyers of Brittany property based in the United States are mostly Filipino-Americans who are either baby boomers in their 50s who left the Philippines in the 1960-1970s and are looking forward to retirement, or soon to be "middle-agers" in their late 20s to 40s, notably health professionals, who maintain strong ties with friends and relatives back home. These segments of the Fil-Am population are among the best educated and most upwardly mobile ethnic groups in the US, with disposable incomes and savings higher than US averages, said Brittany president and CEO Jing Serrano.

Half of British sales

A key advantage to Filipino-Americans of buying homes in the Philippines is the much lower cost, since acquisition values here are normally only 30 percent of what equivalent properties would cost in the US.

Even before the campaign, Serrano explained, balikbayans all over the world already accounted for about half of Brittany sales. She added that Brittany's varied portfolio of developments addresses the range of tastes in the high-end market, including balikbayans, and the firm is not too concerned about targeting concentrations of Filipinos abroad, given its portfolio which reflects a deep understanding of their desires.

However, according to Serrano, Brittany's value proposition has particular relevance to these two segments of Filipino-Americans, because coupled with their buying power, they are inclined to live in the Philippines to enjoy retirement, or to visit the country regularly during vacations.

"The idea of buying a Brittany home has great appeal to them," said Serrano, "because our design, construction and quality standards are the same as those they are used to in the exclusive American communities where they live.

Brittany communities and homes are built for people whom we describe as 'citizens of the world,' people who have traveled or lived abroad, and have well-developed tastes. They appreciate what they see in our communities with regard to thematic concepts and executions as well as the overall standards we maintain." Serrano said Filipino-Americans who inspect Brittany communities often remark that they feel just as if they were back in the United States.

Different lifestyles

Serrano said Brittany's communities cater to different lifestyles, as follows:

- *Brittany Bay*, the company's flagship project, has a neo-Victorian theme reminiscent of San Francisco architecture;
- *CrossWinds* is a Swiss-inspired weekend retreat in Tagaytay with thousands of pine trees that complement the cool climate;
- *Portofino*, Portofino South and Courtyards of Portofino are elegantly Italian-themed communities, just minutes away from the Alabang commercial district;
- *La Marea* in San Pedro, Laguna, is an American-influenced community with a laid-back, green environment;
- *Island Park* in Dasmariñas, Cavite, is a Caribbean-themed community with a feel of perpetual summer amid the wide-open outdoors;
- *Vita Toscana*, also in Cavite off the Coastal Road, is a relaxed community inspired by Italy's Tuscany region with its unhurried enjoyment of life and warm colors.

The next big thing just got bigger . . . From page B3-1

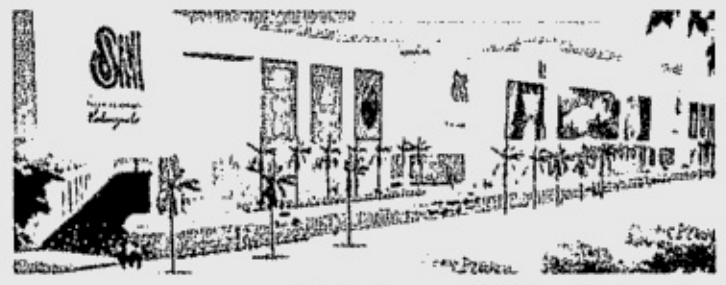
to 600 sq m and averaging at 550 sq m, also offers sanctuary lots which are ideal for nature lovers and those who wish to serenely commune with tranquility on a regular basis. Due to its proximity to nature, residents will get to enjoy fresher air, more shade, and a cooler microclimate. The Parkwood is also ideal for sports and health buffs with the Westgrove Sports Center only a short walk away.

Numerous esthetic possibilities can be applied to one's home, because lots can be availed of in different terrain types. The uphill, downhill and flat terrains can be utilized to fit one's whims. Lots adjacent to parks allow the architecture to use larger bay windows for excellent outdoor views and more access to natural light. Backyard gardens can be designed with patios, terraces, decks or pools because these blend perfectly with The Parkwood's escapist setting.

With all these characteristics of The Parkwood, there is definitely more space for you and your family to embrace nature and to live out your dream lifestyle.

The Ayala Westgrove Heights community is also the fastest selling high-end residential subdivision with over 1,500 lots sold since it launched in 1998. One of the upcoming events, which is open to residents and interested buyers alike, "The Launch of The Parkwood Phase," will be held today and tomorrow.

For further information about the Next Big Thing, please call 728-7000, or log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or email ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.



SM Supercenter Valenzuela's design team includes Chuchawal de Weger, project architect and design consultant; LA Campbell and Associates, project manager; and Monolith Construction and Development Corp., general contractor.

SM SuperCenter Valenzuela opens Oct. 28

GREAT SHOPPING GOES UP to the north Metro area again as SM Supercenter Valenzuela, SM Prime Holding's 21st SM supermall, opens its doors to the public on Oct. 28.

Located on a 2.5-hectare property on MacArthur Highway in Valerizuela, the mall will serve the highly urbanized and industrialized northern gateway to and from Metro Manila. The 70,000 square meter mall has three levels, and will have the Super SM Hypermarket, the SM Food Court, and four cinemas as its major anchors.

Business opportunities abound in Valenzuela City, which is home to some 1,500 industrial firms, 3,000 small to large scale retail establishments. It has 59 subdivisions mostly located in the central and eastern part, specifically in Marulas, Malinta, and General T. de Leon.

Industrial companies, factories, warehouses, and small commercial establishments surround the SM site itself. The mall will also serve customers in Malabon City, one of the most densely populated cities in Metro Manila, which is known as a fishing port.

SM Supercenter Valenzuela will feature an innovative free form design, with a series of billboards that will make the building more colorful and attractive. It promises to become the premiere shopping destination in the area, as families shop, dine, play, watch movies, and learn the latst fashion trends the SM way.

Ayala Land Inc., the country's premier real-estate developer, is finally bringing world-class resort-style living in the Philippines with the development of its first-ever leisure community north of Metro Manila. It will all happen in Anvaya Cove, a 320-hectare property in Morong, Bataan that embraces nature, featuring a wide beachfront and seemingly endless views of mountain and sea.

The Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club will serve as the center of the enviable resort lifestyle to be created through mood-setting archi service comparable to those in top resorts and leisure communities abroad.

The whole Anvaya Cove development will contain structures that illustrate what Ayala Land considers as tropical Asian architecture, borne from the concepts and guidance of renowned local architectural firm Leandro V. Locsin & Partners. The Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club pavilion will exemplify this unique architectural design in a signature quarter-arched roof with interesting corner details.

The Beach and Nature Club not only embodies the physical vision for the Anvaya Cove community, but the emotional and mental aspects as well, with the numerous activities and amenities that will serve to bring families together in true bonding moments. The Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club comprises various zones in its complex that maximize interaction with its water and land components. At sea, there will be an ideal beach area that enhances the natural state of the shores of Subic Bay. A Water Sports Pavilion will manage popular, active water sports activities such as jet skiing and kayaking. The Pawikan Bar and Grille, together with charming beach cabanas, will provide a venue for families and friends to get together over food, drinks and entertainment. An architectural feature, a lookout tower, will also provide endless opportunities to take in the breathtaking views surrounding Anvaya Cove.

More comfortable indoor activities could also be experienced at the Main Pavilion of the club. As in any other resort clubhouse, there are concierge services and numerous dining experiences such as at the Bamboo Cafe. A special Wine Room is an exclusive venue for top VIPs and guests. Nearby is a pool complex for adults and children alike, with a breathtaking infinity-edge feature. For the utmost in relaxation, a spa area set naturally within its surrounding beach and tree areas will also be developed, comparable to the trendy massage salas only experienced in expensive resorts in other Asian countries.

For adventures on land, adjacent to the Beach and Nature Club is the Recreational Lagoon Area for fishing, boating, and even radio-controlled boat racing. A vast expanse of grass and softly rolling terrain called the Great Lawn will also provide the perfect venue for picnics and family gatherings, and more active pastimes such as frisbee throwing, kite flying, or playing with radio-controlled aircrafts.

Most vital to the genuine resort-quality experience at Anvaya Cove is the topnotch service Ayala Land aims to deliver. This comes naturally to a company that is known for its incomparable property management. Apart from standard concierge services, the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club will provide the extra mile in making club members and guests experience not only relaxation and comfort, but a deeper and more meaningful interaction with nature as well through guided tours and assisted explorations of such natural characteristics of the site as shallow marine ecosystems and forest trails.

All these aspects of the Anvaya Cove experience begin with a share in the Beach and Nature Club. This is also the ticket to a more lasting experience of the development and its rich environment through a residential lot in one of Anvaya Cove's many neighborhoods that are set to rise and complete the community. With it, families will even get to enjoy this resort lifestyle all year round.

To learn more about the resort lifestyle that will be made available by Ayala Land in the near future, call (632) 892-3333 , e-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.anvayacove.com.

ADVT

DMCI Homes recreates Bali south of Makati

WELCOME TO BALI.

DMCI Homes might as well hang these welcome greetings anywhere at the entrance to Aman Garden Residences, a new themed housing project it is about to develop south of Makati along the west service road in Merville, Parañaque City.

Executing another take on the same oriental design concept that so richly defines Mayfield Park Residences, DMCI Homes' first hugely successful development, the company blends Balinese culture and architecture with state-of-the-art technology in this planned condominium complex.

ARTISTS' rendition of a condominium building at Aman Garden Residences.

ARTISTS' rendition of Aman Garden's Grand Pavilion. The grand pavilion is a two-part structure with its own reception lobby and multiuse hall, fitness gym and indoor dining hall.

Nurturing domain

Said DMCI Homes managing director Alfredo Austria: "The company's vision for Aman Garden Residences is to make it a nurturing domain for any person or family. As it traces its fundamental design philosophy from order and harmony, Balinese architecture achieves exactly that."

Imagine five residential buildings—two of them rising 15-stories high—in a Bali-inspired setting of lush tropical landscapes where you find a lotus pond, yoga garden, a floating audio-video pavilion, an infinity-edge swimming pool and Balinese stone sculptures, and you get the exact picture of what DMCI Homes' flagship project would look like. There, every structure and every object, living or nonliving, will complement one another to bring off an overall effect of peace.

What aman means

Peace is what the word aman in Aman Garden Residences means and it is what its future residents will get, Austria assured, from the bale, an open pavilion widely popular in the Balinese culture where one renews oneness with God and nature.

But DMCI Homes will go a notch higher in its interpretation of the bale by constructing a floating audio-video pavilion where weary residents may soothe frazzled nerves and vexed spirits after a hard day in the office.

Total peace

To achieve total peace for future homeowners of Aman Garden Residences, Alfredo Austria said DMCI Homes will unobtrusively set up state-of-the-art technology in security in the condominium complex to make Aman Garden one of the safest and most modernly equipped urban enclaves in the country.

The technology, Austria said, will feature WiFi connectivity from all corners of the community, video-phone system from the guard house at the main entrance to each condo unit, and top-of-the-line fencing security system.

An urban sanctuary

"As a popular vacation-resort destination, Bali's charm to pamper and soothe weary souls," Austria said, "gains practical application at Aman Garden Residences with its resort-type facilities available any time of day."

As it is located not far from Makati's financial and commercial centers, DMCI Homes' planned development is reachable via a short commute or quick drive through the East Service Road, thus making it a fast getaway from the hustle and bustle of city life into the embracing serenity and tranquility of the Bali-inspired surrounding inside Aman Garden Residences.

While two of the five condo buildings at Aman Garden will go 15-story high, the rest will take the same mid-rise concept DMCI Homes' other urban communities are associated with. When completed, the development will offer from two- or three-bedroom condo residences to four-bedroom units equipped with complete facilities to suit the busy lifestyle of young urban professionals and early nesters.

In some of the units, a balcony will be installed and will thus afford their owners a good view of the community. For the residents' convenience, Austria said, an elevator will serve each building.

In the tradition of all DMCI Homes' developments, a grand pavilion will rise at the heart of Aman Garden according to country-club standards. It will have, according to Austria, a reception lobby, multi-purpose hall, a fitness gym, and indoor dining hall, a swimming pool, game courts, jogging paths, playgrounds and parks.

Temporary failure

When services temporarily fail or any other household problems arise such as leaking roofs or creaking doors or forgotten garbage, all a unit owner has to do is, Austria said, call the property management team via a hotline. He assured that the problems will be quickly and efficiently attended to.

Of course, there are, Austria added, the WiFi connectivity and other top-of-the-line security gadgets to back up the management team in making Aman Garden conveniently modern and doubly secure.

"We are excited about this project," Austria said of Aman Garden. "Every community that DMCI Homes creates is a commitment to further improve on what we have already achieved so far. With Aman Garden Residences, I strongly believe that we will surpass the market's expectations."

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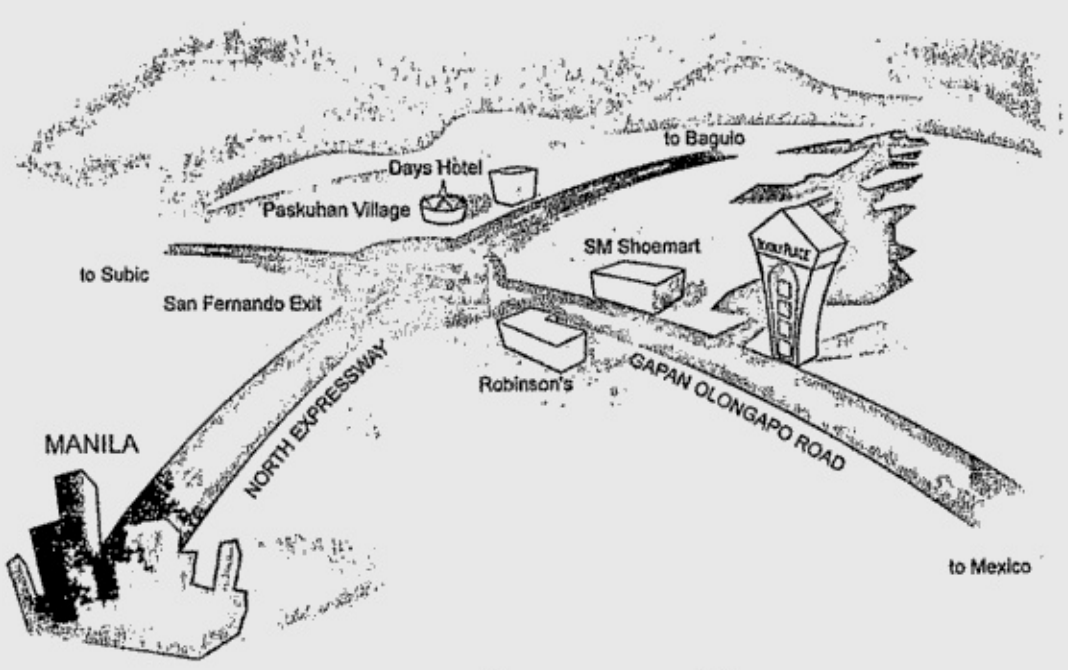

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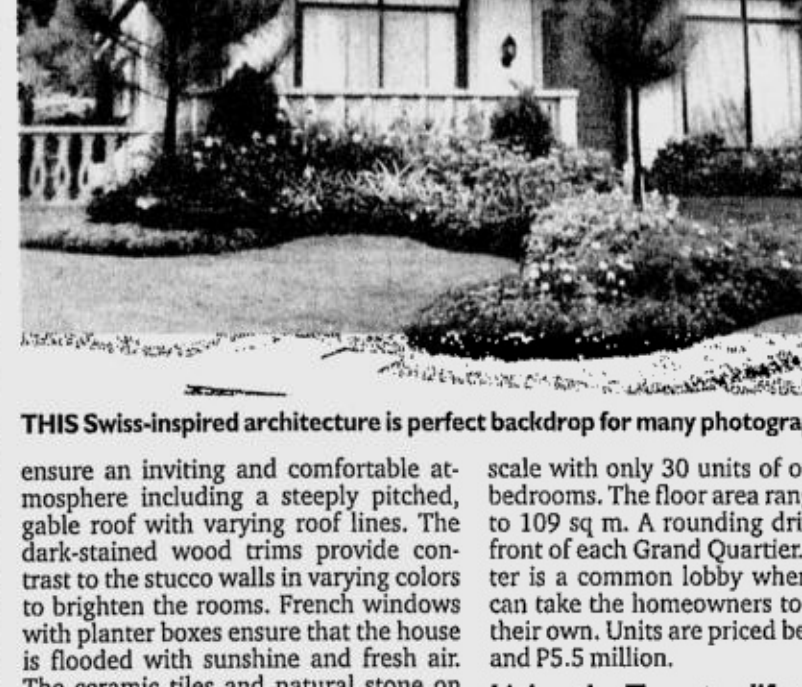
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
PROPERTY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

Brittany creates precious memories at CrossWinds



THIS Swiss-inspired architecture is perfect backdrop for many photographs to be cherished and kept.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES ARE WHAT we keep and treasure in our hearts long after we have grown up and had children of our own. Be it with the whole family setting up a fleet of kites for flight on a sunny afternoon or being able to spend a couple of minutes to bond with Dad while tending the barbecue for lunch, we remember these precious moments, replay them over and over in our minds, and hope one day to make similar—if not better ones—with our own kids.

Tagaytay is one such place where beautiful memories cannot help but be created. Set against the breathtaking majesty of Taal Volcano, the city is a favorite haunt of Filipinos and foreigners alike. Its proximity to the country's capital—just an hour-and-a-half away from Manila—make it an ideal weekend getaway from the glaring neon lights of the city.

Nestled on the lush landscape of Tagaytay is a property created especially for memories to be made. CrossWinds, named after the merging of wind current blowing from different directions, is a Swiss-inspired weekend retreat especially conceptualized by maverick developer Brittany Corp.

"Everyone has Tagaytay memories. It's almost impossible not to have one! It's practically a rite of passage for families to spend a weekend there or for college friends to go for a drive and spend the evening stargazing. And if you think about it, the better question is which of your Tagaytay memories you treasure the most," enthused Jing Serrano, president of Brittany.

"Tagaytay being the site of CrossWinds is far from accidental. The city has always had and will always have so much to offer. And we want our residents to be able to take full advantage of it. Being at the heart of Tagaytay, CrossWinds homeowners will literally be at the center of a wide range of activities—from trekking for those who indulge in sports to food-tripping for those in search of new flavors," she added.

DIFFERENT areas of the Quadrille make for good bonding moments for families.

Swiss-inspired homes

Located on the left side of the highway just beyond Picnic Grove and the road from the South Luzon Expressway exit via Sta. Rosa, CrossWinds by itself makes for a spectacular cradle of reminiscences.

Its Swiss-inspired architecture is a perfect backdrop for many photographs to be cherished and kept. Details such as overhanging eaves, wood patterns and wide balconies all set against a lush green landscape provide a haven with almost a fairytale-like quality to it.

Other design details were employed to ensure an inviting and comfortable atmosphere including a steeply pitched, gable roof with varying roof lines. The dark-stained wood trims provide contrast to the stucco walls in varying colors to brighten the rooms. French windows with planter boxes ensure that the house is flooded with sunshine and fresh air. The ceramic tiles and natural stone on the porch and balcony with stained wood finish and hand-carved patterns on the railing complete the look.

With a total floor area of 166 sq m, a unit at the Quadrilles is a three-bedroom masterpiece featuring a master's bedroom with walk-in closet and toilet with bath, two smaller bedrooms, attic space, porch and balcony, maid's room with toilet and bath, utility area, a parking slot and an open parking area.

For those who wish to create a home in accordance with their personal style, custom houses are also accommodated in the property. Individual lots are available ranging from 450 to 1,000 sq m.

The Grand Quartier, on the other hand, explores the concept of large living spaces on a low-rise development. While it adheres to the Swiss theme, the Grand Quartier offers this on a more intimate scale with only 30 units of one and two bedrooms. The floor area ranges from 74 to 109 sq m. A rounding driveway is in front of each Grand Quartier. At the center is a common lobby where elevators can take the homeowners to a world all their own. Units are priced between P3.5 and P5.5 million.

Living the Tagaytay lifestyle

Being able to call Tagaytay home, however, is an equally important aspect of being a CrossWinds resident. Here, one goes to sleep at night under a canopy of brightly shining stars—completely unobstructed by smog and other pollution—and awakens to the sweet scent of flowers mingling with the fresh aroma of pine trees that were all especially planted by CrossWinds' crew of gardeners.

Just a short distance away is the Taal Volcano which serves as an inspiring backdrop for a morning jog. Nature lovers can also avail of trekking and rowing activities offered by local operators to explore this natural wonder.

For those who prefer indoor activities, several hotels in the area offer a variety of pursuits ranging from gaming activities at a nearby casino to spa treatments to relieve the body's aches and pains.

Many restaurants offer local delicacies with a home-cooked taste to it—a welcome break from the giant food chains of Manila. For those with healthier hearts, the many *bulalo* stands that dot the roadside offer a much sought-after guilty pleasure in a pot of beef boiled to such tenderness that the meat literally falls off the bone and melts in the mouth.

Scattered on either side of the road are various peddlers offering the freshest fruits and vegetables, often handpicked by the vendors themselves at the exact ripeness ready for the hungry mouth to savor. Many also offer flowers ready to be planted in your own garden.

On Sundays, take your pick among the many beautiful churches with well-crafted altars that inspire its parishioners to have a more intimate relationship with our Creator. One can even indulge on a Visita Iglesia during Lenten season and visit seven churches without having to leave the city.

"Tagaytay is definitely where memories are made," said Serrano. "And with CrossWinds, we can make these memories even better!"

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084.

Ebdane stops rules barring civil engineers from work

PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARY Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr. has ordered building officials and city or district engineers to stop implementing, until further notice, two provisions of the newly revised implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the National Building Code which strip civil engineers of the right to prepare, sign and seal plans and specifications of buildings, structures and infrastructures for building permits.

The Regional Trial Court of the National Capital Judicial Region in Manila issued last May 24 a writ of preliminary injunction prohibiting Ebdane, his agents and representatives from implementing the two questioned provisions until further court order. Ebdane's memorandum informing building officials of the court's injunction was issued last Sept. 26.

Petitioners

The Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE) and civil engineer-legal counsel Leo Cleto Gamolo are the petitioners in the case filed against Ebdane. More than 100,000 civil engineers registered with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) are affected by the new rules.

The questioned provisions bar civil engineers from exercising the right to prepare, sign and seal plans and specifications covering map or location, site development, perspective, floors, elevations, sections, ceilings, doors and windows, schedule of finishes, and other elements. But with the court's stop order, the civil engineers may continue their professional job as authorized by the National Building Code.

In issuing the preliminary restraining order after a hearing, Judge Marino M. de la Cruz Jr. said both petitioners and respondent have agreed that "one cannot be deprived of the right to work and the right to make a living because these rights are property rights. It is not disputed that before the issuance of the questioned rules, petitioners as civil engineers were exercising the rights pursuant to RA 544 (Civil Engineering Law) and PD 1096 (National Building Code) which the subject IRR would now remove from them."

The judge added: "It is a legal truism that 'the spring cannot rise higher than its source.' At this stage of the proceedings, it would appear that the new IRR goes beyond the laws it seeks to implement."

The National Building Code (PD 1096), the PICE pointed out, expressly provides that plans and specifications required for the issuance of a building permits may be "prepared, signed and sealed by a duly-licensed architect or civil engineer."

They also cited the Civil Engineering Law which provides that the practice of civil engineering includes preparation of plans, specifications, estimates, erection, installation and supervision of the construction of streets, bridges, highways, railroads, airports and hangars, portworks, canals, river and shore improvements, lighthouses, and dry docks, buildings, fixed structures and tunnels.

But the questioned provisions of the revised implementing rules of the NBC, crafted and approved by the DPWH, PICE said, "give architects the exclusive right" to do the job. This provisions, PICE stressed, violate the NBC, the very law the rules are supposed to implement.

The petition stressed: "Administrative rules like the IRR cannot amend or vary the laws promulgated by the legislature. They cannot be contrary to and inconsistent with the laws that they seek to implement." Cited were Supreme Court decisions that administrative rules can only implement and not supplant the laws.

"The direct consequence of the void provisions is to deprive thousands of civil engineers of their right to earn a livelihood which has been vested upon them for more than half a century now."

PICE also invoked the constitutional right of civil engineers to equal protection of the law. While the new IRR recognizes the overlapping of functions between architects and interior designers, it said, there is no similar recognition in connection with the overlapping of functions between civil engineers and architects.

In asking the court to issue a preliminary injunction to "restrain the commission or continuance of implementing void provisions of IRR," the PICE underscored: "Great and irreparable injury will be sustained by thousands of civil engineers, if the void IRR is implemented."

The revised IRR took effect on April 30, 15 days after its official publication in a newspaper. "If not restrained," PICE said, "the IRR would then unduly deprive the more than 60,000 PICC members of their means of livelihood and the public would also suffer for being deprived of the services of civil engineers."

Super

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Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

pop culture . entertainment . recreation

SuperCountdown
9 days 'til Halloween

style . urban living .

VAT ever

Amanda Griffin bares it for Super! page C2

Absolut goes the Tokyo route page D1

Kat Hollgores' latest page D4
Scoop

Party hopping 24/7 with page C3
Paolo & Janine

Introduced by TIM YAP
Photography VICTOR CONSUNJI
Make-up CINDY PALMERO
Hair SHY UMALI
Cover shot AMANDA GRIFFIN
Styling Celine Lopez
LOUNGERIE LUX

VOLTAIRE Torres, Ria Coronel and Alex Coronel

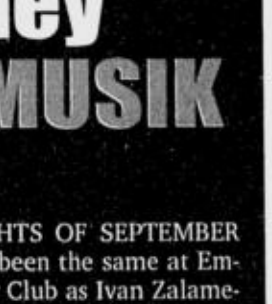
Ivan Zalameda (left), Audrey Tan and Miguel Zubiri

Journey into MUSIK

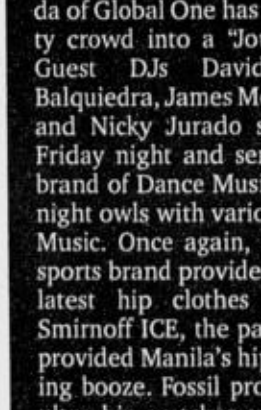
By David Milan

FRIDAY NIGHTS OF SEPTEMBER have never been the same at Embassy Super Club as Ivan Zalameda of Global One has taken Manila's party crowd into a "Journey into Musik." Guest DJs David Jacob, Bombi Balquiedra, James McRanie, Elmer Dado and Nicky Jurado shift-swapped each Friday night and served out their own brand of Dance Music and provided the night owls with various genres of House Music. Once again, PUMA, the leading sports brand provided the DJs with their latest hip clothes and shoes while Smirnoff ICE, the party drink of choice, provided Manila's hip set with free flowing booze. Fossil provided the DJs with ultra hip watches while Sony Ericsson unveiled their latest mobile phone, the w800i, the first walkman phone that is truly a winner.

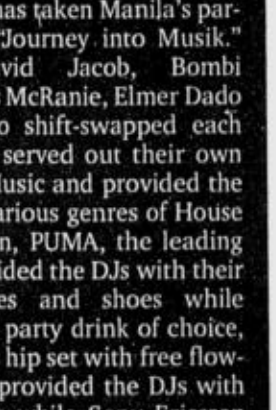
Friday nights are getting to be a habit as our very own Pinoy DJs are making their mark once again. These guys are indeed world class performers and are ready to make Embassy Super Club the one and only premiere clubbers' destination.



(FROM top) Iza Calzado, Geneva Cruz and KC Montero



FELIPE Flores and Borgy Manotoc



TIM Yap and Jacques Dupasquier

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A lot has been published in the literature about the many benefits of fiber to the body. But what is fiber? Fiber is a natural constituent of plant cell walls and abounds in plant foods such as fruits, vegetables and grains. Fiber is an important part of a healthy diet. Dietary fiber may be classified as soluble and insoluble.

Soluble fiber (such as apple pectin) forms a gel when mixed with liquid and is known to have a cholesterol–lowering effect. Insoluble fiber (such as wheat bran), on the other hand, passes through the intestinal tract largely intact because it is not digested in the human body.

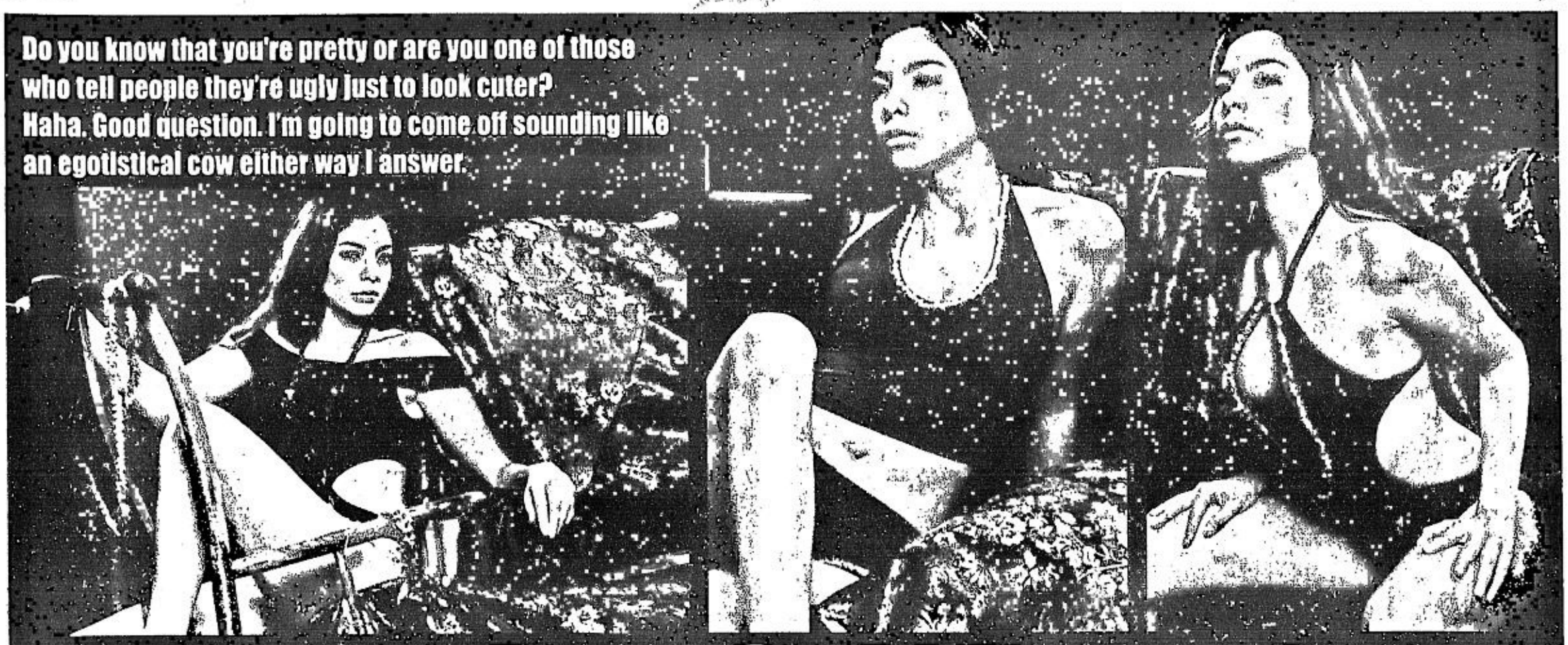
Insoluble fiber is also known as "roughage" or "nature's broom" because it promotes the easy transit of waste materials through the large intestine, and therefore helps prevent constipation. Consequently, it prevents the potentially harmful substances in food from lingering in the intestines and coming in contact with the intestinal lining, which may be potential causes of colon cancer.

Fiber-rich foods are often low in fat and calories, promote satiety, and therefore, weight loss. Fiber also binds lipids such as cholesterol and carries these out of the body. Thus reducing the risk of heart and artery disease. Dietary fiber also has beneficial effects on glucose and insulin modulation, hence it helps to manage diabetes. Foods made from whole grains, like high fiber wheat bread, are excellent sources of dietary fiber.

The Nutritionist-Dietitians Association of the Philippines (NDAP) maintains that a diet high in fiber, combined with plenty of fluid intake and exercise, can keep the body trim, healthy and productive.

This health message is brought to you by

Gardenia and ndap



Unlocking Griffin's door

RIGHT BEFORE CLOSING today's Superl section, I got a call from comedian slash scene mover Tado Jimenez. He had just formed a group called "Dakila—Philippine collective for modern heroism," which aims to gather artists to take a stand on the issues of society.

Dakila has been active of late due to the latest VAT debate. The past few weeks has seen Tado and company (with the core group composed of writer Loard De Veyra, musician Buwi of Parokya and actor Ronnie Lazaro) rallying the troops to donate blood for charity. *"Mas mabuti pang magbuwis ng dugo kesa magbayad ng dagdag na buwis!"* So claim these modern day superheroes regarding this nationwide issue of tax.

Vat-ever will be, will be? Mid week's headlines declared that the VAT law is finally legal. *"Tuloy pa rin kami,"* Tado insists. *"Maraimi pang kalaban—hindi kami titigil."*

Sounds like things are heating up, and these artists may be acting for the benefit of the country. Whether you agree with them or not, debates are always part and parcel of any democracy—it keeps us alive.

So let's hear them out.

Amanda's page

But here's another voice we should hear that deserves to be heard. I sat down with Amanda Griffin while she lounged around in her Loungeri Lux (the swimsuit line by Celine Lopez, as if you didn't know) and we talked endlessly about the highs and lows of being a mow-del. By highs I do not mean the Kate Moss type.

But there was no low point, as Amanda is not like those gals who are too full of themselves or are trying too hard to impress. She does not need to anyway. Hers is a career that's spanned decades—just kidding. But it seems like it, when you do a roll call of the brands that's gotten a kick with Amanda's name attached to it. Lucky them.

At the Superl shoot, she was high—on orange juice only. Yet she answered each and every cliché Zoolander-esque question with nonchalant humor—something that is missing in every image conscious mannequin.

Too many guys (and ghels, and anyone, really) would die to be in my place now, but hey—someone's gotta do it.

How did you last longer than the average Naomi?

My ability to still look like a pre-teen even though I'm 40. Or is it 30? 50? 20? Sorry, a true mode-elle never gives up her age.

Do you have an eating disorder?

Of course darling. What kind of model would I be without one? Except mine is called carboorexia. Just can't get enough of those damn pizzas and hamburgers.

Were you ugly as a child?

Again, of course darling! Isn't that quid pro quo with mode-elles? I had bugs bunny teeth and a rather unfortunate unibrow. Hail to the inventors of the torturous metal on your teeth and hair yanking device for the brows.

Did you feel awkward as a teenager?

This is a bit redundant, no? I was an ugly duckling. And that didn't magically change when I hit puberty. Awkward?? Heck yeah! I was painfully shy, super skinny and gangly, and taller than my friends. But for some reason, modeling agents were able to see past that and I booked my first job at this horrifically awkward stage.

Do you think Kate Moss will recover from cat caught the cream incident?

Hmmmm, I'd have to say yes. As long as she is thoroughly repentant (publicly), spends a year in rehab (publicly), and turns her back on her insidious friends (publicly). The people are quite forgiving I think. Although I think it will be limited to ads for drug prevention unfortunately. She's partied. She's recovered (well, soon). It's now the next phase of for this 90's supermodel. Bes dear, she hasn't lost it ALL. She still has Dior baby!

If Linda Evangelista would wake up for $10,000, how much would you wake up for?

Are you asking me if I'd wake up for $10,000? Of course I would. Who wouldn't??

Settle this dispute: waifs or Brazillians why?

Waifs because I want to be totally un-p.c. Besides it's not fair to be skinny and have big boobs too right?

Do you take advantage of your fame... if so how do you exploit it?

Of course darling. Freebies. Freebies. Freebies.

Have you ever had a stalker?

Yeah. Freaking scary!! What is wrong with people?? One guy has been obsessed for 15 years!! Since I was a pre-teen model. Well, he said since 1989. Wait, is my math right? I'm getting confused.

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Have you hit her with your cellphone a la Naomi?

Can I plead the 5th? (oops we're not in Kansas anymore are we, Dorothy?) Of course not!

Who do you hate the most in the industry?

Hate is such a strong word. No-one! Models L-O-V-E everyone in the industry. It's true. Really.

Who is your rival?

My nemesis? I think you know... Sorry no juicy revelations here. Not today.

What makes you think you're successful?

My friends tell me I am. And friends NEVER lie.

Do you think girls secretly hate you?

Probably. I don't know why. I L-O-V-E everyone.

What makes you proud?

My 3 secret children (Rummy, Boggie and Grizzly—my pups).

How were you 'discovered'?

I was mailing with my Mom in the late 80's.

Biggest misconception about you?

Biggest? There's so many. I guess I'd say that I'm a snob. Or that I'm dumb? Or... shoot never mind that could go on for awhile.

Do you have an eating disorder (just checking)?

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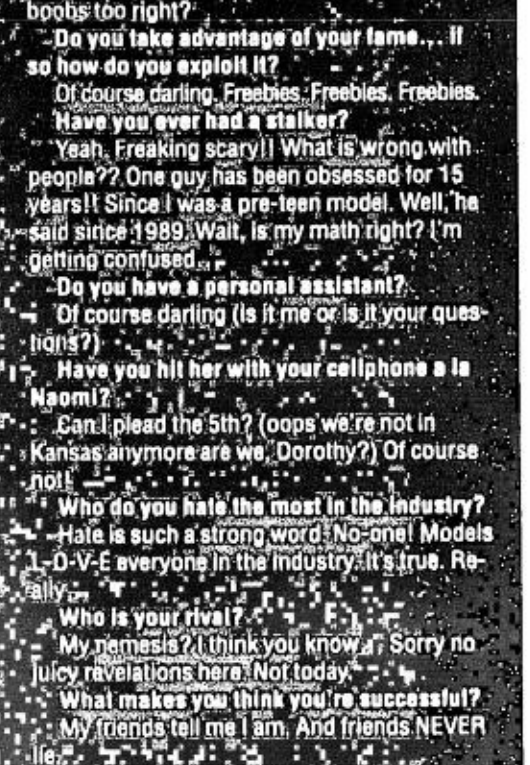

"I WANTED figure friendly pieces. I have a lot of sexy maillots which are way hot but allow you to have that fabulous pizza in Aria without looking like you're sporting a beer belly. The bikinis are meant to accentuate the positive while adding drama with luscious details." Celine says of her Loungeri Lux pieces, as worn by bosom buddy Amanda.

"YOU CAN totally swim in these babies. Promise they may seem flimsy but they perform like it were for Phelps, well a tranny Phelps." Plunge in, baby

Loungeri Lux, lux loungeri

CELINE LOPEZ DOES not like the idea of cloning. "I hate bumping into people wearing the same suit as me so I guess you say that vanity was the catalyst of this venture."

Basically after years of designing her own suits since everything out there were either boring or just way out of her budget (what budget?), she decided to create fun one of a kind pieces that will surely stand out in the beach.

Loungeri was born with a metallic spoon that came forth from its fight mom. "It's called Loungeri because my main inspiration is lingerie. You'll see with the delicate details some sexy piping—but fear not. You wont look like you just ran out of bed! It's very beachy and all those sweet little things will withstand a good afternoon surfing."

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Speaking of charges, here's one that won't hurt daddy's plastic. "The prices are fair from 3,000 to 4,500. Everything is lovingly detailed. Some are just so fancy that you can actually wear them out in town with some loose fisherman pants or even jeans!"

So whether you feel like surfing in maillots or just lounging with your jeans, you are sure to cause heads (if not waves) to turn with a capital L. Loungeri Lux was made for you, lady.

Good news, sun worshippers and raiders of the lost beach—Loungeri is now oh-so-available in all Chocolate outlets and Rustans Makati. - Tim Yap

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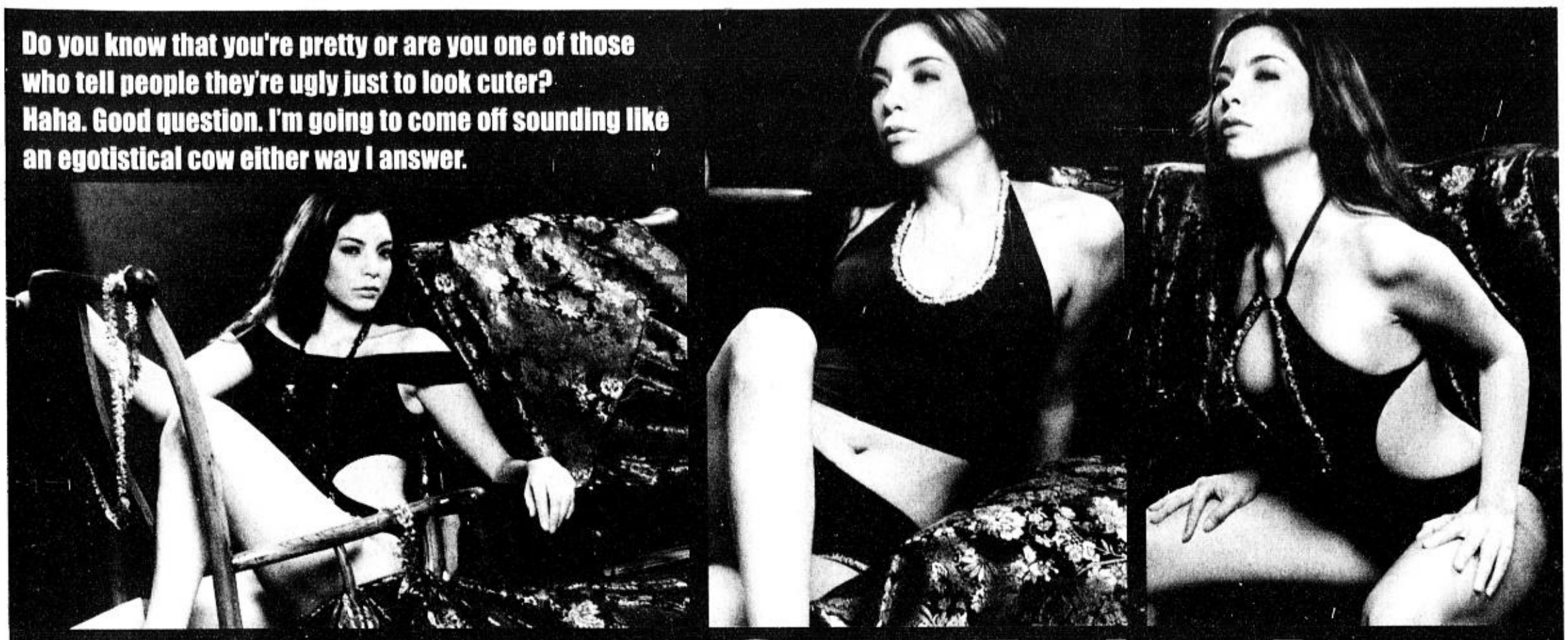
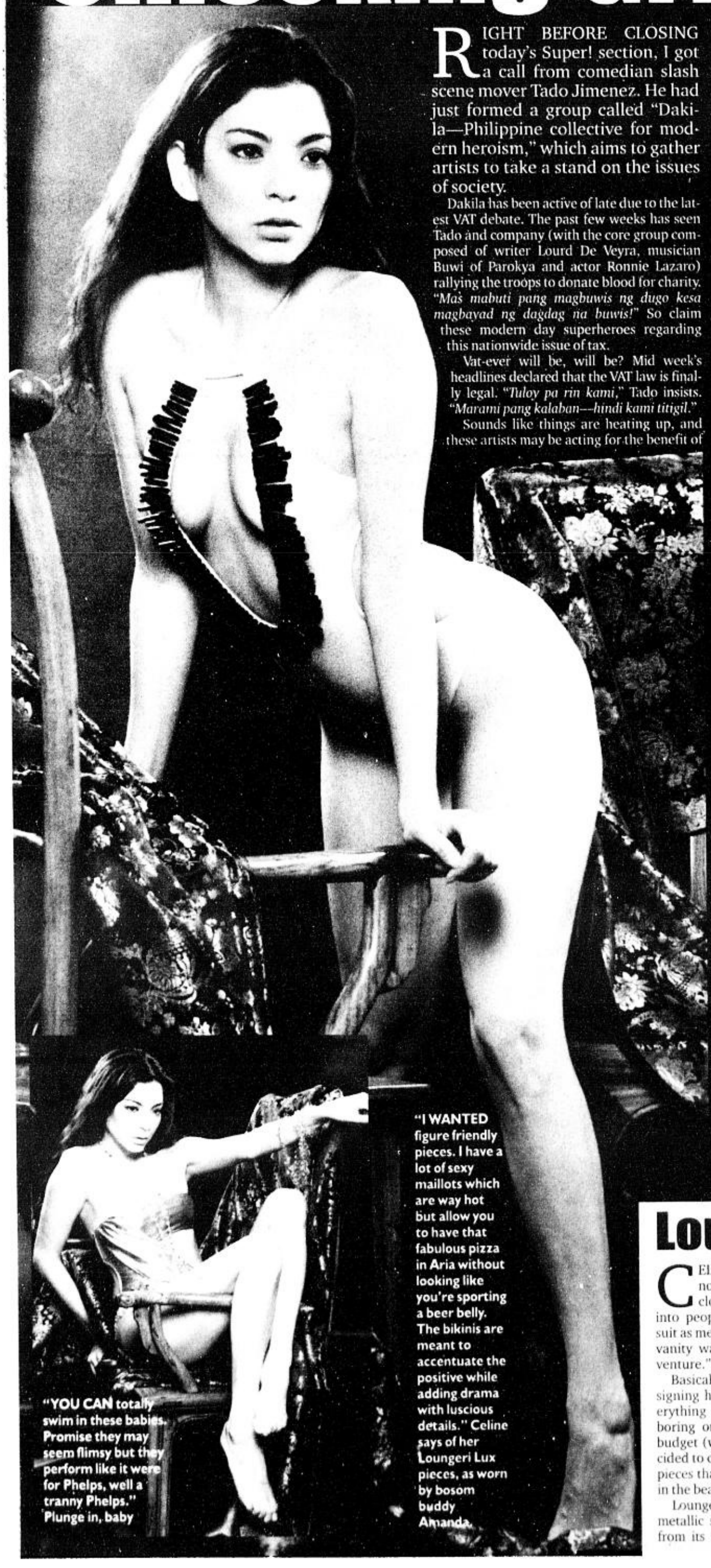


Unlocking Griffin's door

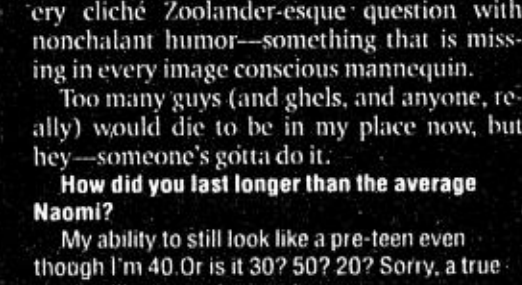


RIGHT BEFORE CLOSING today's Super! section, I got a call from comedian slash scene mover Tado Jimenez. He had just formed a group called "Dakila—Philippine collective for modern heroism," which aims to gather artists to take a stand on the issues of society.

Dakila has been active of late due to the latest VAT debate. The past few weeks has seen Tado and company (with the core group composed of writer Lourd De Veyra, musician Buwi of Parokya and actor Ronnie Lazaro) rallying the troops to donate blood for charity. *"Mas mabuti pang magbuwis ng dugo kesa magbayad ng dagdag na buwis!"* So claim these modern day superheroes regarding this nationwide issue of tax.

Vat-ever will be, will be? Mid week's headlines declared that the VAT law is finally legal. *"Tuloy pa rin kami,"* Tado insists. *"Marami pang kalaban—hindi kami titigil."*

Sounds like things are heating up, and these artists may be acting for the benefit of



the country. Whether you agree with them or not, debates are always part and parcel of any democracy—it keeps us alive.

So let's hear them out.

Amanda's page

But here's another voice we should hear that deserves to be heard. I sat down with Amanda Griffin while she lounged around in her Loungeri Lux (the swimsuit line by Celine Lopez, as if you didn't know) and we talked endlessly about the highs and lows of being a mow-del. By highs I do not mean the Kate Moss type.

But there was no low point, as Amanda is not like those gals who are too full of themselves or are trying too hard to impress. She does not need to anyway. Hers is a career that's spanned decades—just kidding. But it seems like it, when you do a roll call of the brands that's gotten a kick with Amanda's name attached to it. Lucky them.

At the Super! shoot, she was high—on orange juice only. Yet she answered each and every cliché Zoolander-esque question with nonchalant humor—something that is missing in every image conscious mannequin.

Too many guys (and ghels, and anyone, really) would die to be in my place now, but hey—someone's gotta do it.

How did you last longer than the average Naomi?

My ability to still look like a pre-teen even though I'm 40.Or is it 30? 50? 20? Sorry, a true mode-elle never gives up her age.

Do you have an eating disorder?

Of course darling. What kind of model would I be without one? Except mine is called carborexia. Just can't get enough of those damn pizzas and hamburgers.

Were you ugly as a child?

Again, of course darling! Isn't that quid pro quo with mode-elles? I had bugs bunny teeth and a rather unfortunate unibrow. Hail to the inventors of the torturous metal on your teeth and hair yanking device for the brows.

Did you feel awkward as a teenager?

This is a bit redundant, no? I was an ugly duckling. And that didn't magically change when I hit puberty. Awkward?? Heck yeah! I was painfully shy, super skinny and gangly, and taller than my friends. But for some reason, modeling agents were able to see past that and I booked my first job at this horrifically "awkward" stage.

Do you think Kate Moss will recover from cat caught the cream incident?

Hmmmm… I'd have to say yes. As long as she is thoroughly repentant (publicly), spends a year in rehab (publicly), and turns her back on her insidious friends (publicly). The people are quite forgiving I think. Although I think it will be limited to ads for drug prevention unfortunately. She's partied. She's recovered (well, soon). It's now the next phase of for this 90's supermodel. Besides..she hasn't lost it ALL. She still has Dior baby!

If Linda Evangelista would wake up for $10,000, how much would you wake up for?

Are you asking me if I'd wake up for $10,000? Of course I would. Who wouldn't??

Settle this dispute: waifs or Brazillians why?

Waifs because I want to be totally un-p.c. Besides it's not fair to be skinny and have big boobs too right?

Do you take advantage of your fame… if so how do you exploit it?

Of course darling. Freebies. Freebies. Freebies.

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24/7

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

NBK turns eight!

DJS SPIN their best

THE LOYAL BARFLIES OF V BAR, BED, and Teak have been forced to find a new home on weekends. No, they haven't closed down (contrary to certain rumors), they're just... uh... undergoing a little facelift. And as the faint whispers of the party crowd suggest, they'll be back not only fully refurbished, but also with a few surprises up their sleeves. In the meantime, it might be a good chance for everyone to check out some new alternatives, like the lively sangria bar Ñ [Hidalgo Drive cor. Estrella St., Rockwell Center, Makati] or the curiously cozy lounge Luce [3/F Montivar Bldg., 34 Jupiter St., Bel-Air 3, Makati] which serves Insomnia's famous crispy pata. Once in a while, it's always nice to venture out and enjoy some of the city's best kept secrets.

The World's Longest Buffet, 7 p.m. tonight

C'mon, admit it, we Filipinos are so hell-bent on getting global attention. And one way we've figured we can achieve the spectacular is to short cut the process by breaking world records. Last year, it was Lovapalooza, the nationwide smooch fest that had "the most number of people kissing simultaneously in one spot." Tonight, we take another ambitious shot at Guinness glory as Eastwood City attempts to hold "The World's Longest Buffet." For only P350 (yes, you read right), you have free reign over a 350-meter table filled with 400 different dishes from 36 restaurants. Yeeah! Call 687-6770 to 74.

NBK's 8th Anniversary Party @ Embassy Club, 10 p.m. tonight

Retro and House DJs in one night of clubbing fun? Natural Born Klubbers (NBK) celebrates their 8th anniversary tonight with disco guru Boyet Almazan joining NBK house DJs Ali Nepomuceno, Antz Santiago, Bombi Balquiedra, Boyet Almazan, Jed Dario, Jon Naval, Manolet Dario, Marc Naval, Paolo Maralit, and Raji Mata all spinning their best at the Embassy Club. Call Teddy at 892-0689.

Salvation Masquerade Ball @ World Trade Center, Oct. 28

Their hot pink parties have been dubbed "lessons in dynamic decadence." Straight from the throbbing heart of the West End's pulsating club scene. CircuitAsia flies in London-based party promoter Salvation on Friday for a lavish Halloween bash at the World Trade Center. Arrive in disguise and dance to the energy-driven sets of UK spinlords DJs Luke Hope and Pier Morrocco as they churn out everything from cool disco to vocal house. Call 899-7877.

Fanfare: Soundtrip for the Genesis of Art, Oct. 28

Ready to rock... for art? Head over to Dish [ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Mother Ignacia St., QC, phone: 413-0603] on Friday for "Fanfare," a 14-band concert featuring The Bloomfields, Splitcide, Out of the Box, Whatevuritakes, Hymn of Siren, Taggu Ndlos, Pupil, Rinka, Audible, Severo, Out of Body Special, Ephesus, Miscellaneous, and Pleasure Box. Tickets at P200. Call 891-9999.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Oct. 22, Saturday

NBK 8th Anniversary Party at Embassy Club; Pump Saturdays with House Music DJs at Jill's; Steve Mills & Flava Street DJs at Temple; Benjamin Boo: Heart and Soul at the Meralco Theater; Triggerbliss, Angulo, She Said, Caliph8, Morse, Honey and Jaycee, Crayola Kernel Panic, & Free Beer at Saguijo; National House Anthems at Mezze; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Patch & Paolo Abaya at Absinth; '80s Night at Quisine; Romy Posadas at Wasabi; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur

Oct. 23, Sunday

Laudarra: A Journey Through 10 Strings with guitarist Perf de Castro at Philam Life Theater; Spanish Food Festival at Hyatt Regency Manila; Sunday Jazz Brunch at Paseo Uno Coffee Shop; Manila, My Manila Photo Exhibit at Greenbelt 3 Lobby; 150 Years of Photography in Spain at National Museum; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar

Oct. 24, Monday

Soul Seduction with Victoria at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; CouchLab DJs at Tiananmen Bar; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; 604 Band at Suburbia

Oct. 25, Tuesday

Acoustic Night with Ethan at Temple; Willy Wanka's Music Factory with Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; Nancy Drool, Licketysplit, & Olympic Smoker at Saguijo; Rock & Roll with The Bloomfields at Dish; Velvet Party with DJ Kimosave at Absinth; Steak Tuesdays at Halo; Nyoy Volante at Suburbia

Oct. 26, Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazan at Mezze; Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Mag:net Cafe Katipunan; Wunjo, Severo, & Olympic Smoker at Saguijo; Flirt with DJ James McCranie at Absinth; Wednesday Bash with DJ Kimosave at Prince of Jaipur; MOBB at Captain's Bar

Oct. 27, Thursday

Circuit Asia Party at Embassy Club; All Souled Out at Mezze; Nocturnal Massv with Travis Monsod & Funk Avy at Club Halo; Elysium Night with Skies of Ember, Decay Transit, Daydream Cycle, Elemento, Scarlet Tears, & Late Isabel at Saguijo; Rock the Deejay! with CouchLab & Jun Lopito at Manila DJ Club; Ladies Night with DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; RIDDM with DJ Patch at Absinth; Retro Night at Dish; Jazzphil Night with Executives at Wasabi; Silk at Suburbia

UNBUCKLE thy belts

Oct. 28, Friday

Kitchie Nadal & Barbie Almabis at Bagaberde; Manila Pavilion Hotel's Oktoberfest: Oom-pa-pa 8 with True Faith, Muzik Matrix, Righteous Act, Arpie & D' Multivitamins, Family Cruz, & Major Impact at T.M. Kalaw St., Manila; HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's; La Baila with Calypso DJs at Maestro Lounge; Superfly DJs at Nuvo; Urban MYX with DJ Badboy Jeff at Phi Bar; Hot House Nights with Mark de Leon at Rack's El Pueblo; Friday Night Flava at Dish; Jive Fridays at Temple; Ethan at SM Megastrip; DJs Scratch-Mark & Kimosave at Prince of Jaipur; CouchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills at Wasabi; Spy at Saguijo

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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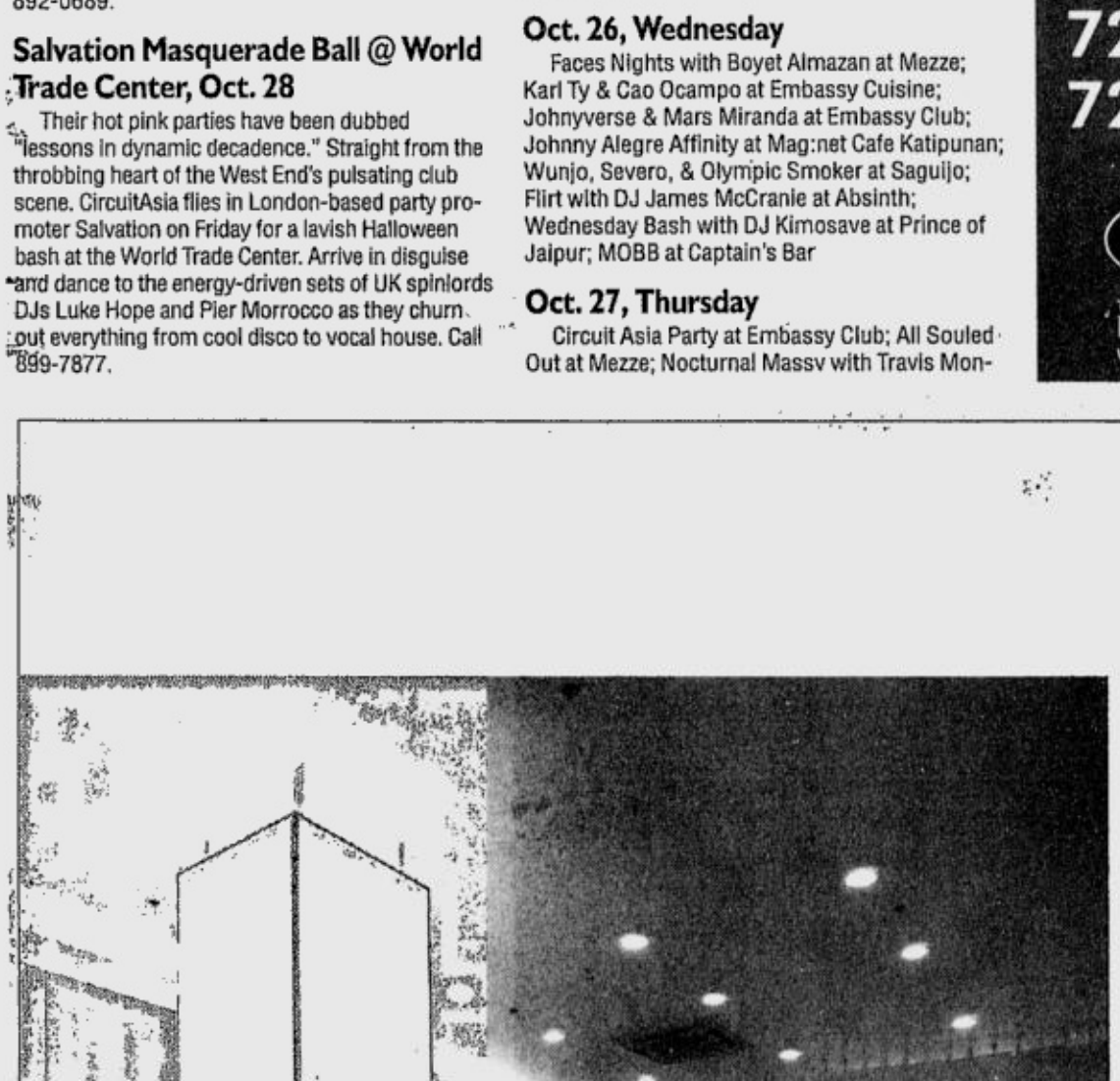

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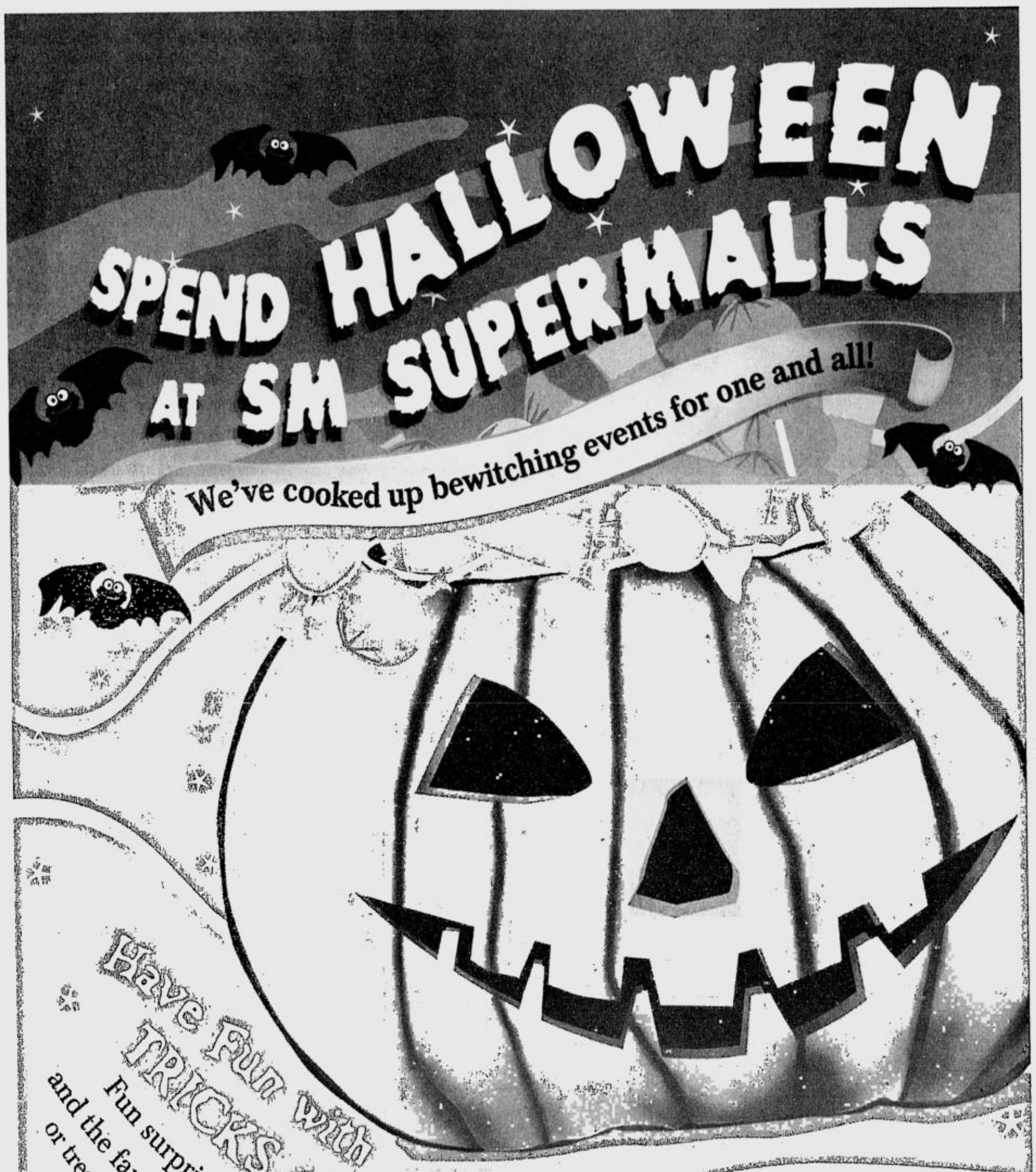
Open House today and tomorrow.

Halloween fun and thrills at SM Supermalls

Lots of fun, games, contests and surprises are in store for all families who celebrate Halloween at SM Supermalls this October!



Bewitched Halloween Costume Contest Oct. 30, 3pm

Registration is open up to October 30 (10am-12noon) to kids ages 12 and below.

Come in your best costume and get

- Gift Packages
- Jollibee Goodie Packs
- Loot Bags

Trick or Treat

Oct. 30, 10am-2pm, 5pm-7pm*

All kids wearing Halloween costume and carrying pumpkin pails are invited to join. (Don't forget to bring your parents!)

*For SM City San Lazaro, Trick or Treat will be on Oct. 31, 10am-7pm

Who let the Dogs Out?

Dog Costume Contest
Oct. 29, 2pm

Register your pet dogs up to October 27 for a fun-filled afternoon with your favorite pet.

Participating malls:
SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM City Bicutan, SM Southmall, SM City North Edsa.

More Halloween Fun

Join the Halloween celebration in all SM Supermalls. Kids will have fun dressing up in funny or scary costumes, and go treats-hunting 'round the mall!

Schedule for Provincial Luzon Malls
(SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Marilao, SM City Batangas, SM City Lucena, SM City Pampanga, SM City Baguio):

Dates	Events
Oct. 29-31	Trick or Treat at the Mall
Oct. 29	Halloween Funniest Costume Contest
Oct. 30	Halloween Scariest Costume Contest
Oct. 31	Halloween Most Original Costume Contest

For children 12 years and below

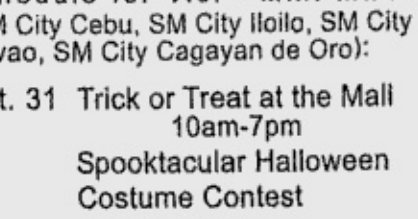
Schedule for Vis. - Min. Malls
(SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, SM City Davao, SM City Cagayan de Oro):

Oct. 31 Trick or Treat at the Mall 10am-7pm
Spooktacular Halloween Costume Contest

Surprize Surprize!

A total of 20 brand-new Mitsubishi Outlanders will be given away as grand prizes in SM Supermalls' nationwide raffle event on-going until November 15. In addition to the grand prizes, 20 JVC Color TVs are being raffled off as major weekly prizes up to November 12.

Shoppers at any of the 20 SM Supermalls are invited to join this exciting raffle event. Every P500 purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket, or any mall establishement entitles shoppers to one raffle coupon.



GLOBE GIZMO PREPAID — DISCOVER CONNECT PLAY

SM SUPERMALLS

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SM CITY ILOILO • SM CITY MARILAO • SM CITY LUCENA • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM CITY DASMARIÑAS • SM CITY BATANGAS • SM CITY SAN LAZARO

Super

I'm NOT just a teenage dirt bag, baby

Deviant subcultures are the answer to the question 'What the Hell-o Kitty has happened to Japan?'

By James Gabrillo

DON'T BE STUNNED TO spot a superfluity of shockingly neon-haired, platform-shoed movements bursting in your friendly neighborhood sometime soon." Back when all of us kids were going gaga over Super Mario Brothers, Dragonball Z, and Sailormoon—roughly a decade ago—this was the proud warning of Japan's groupies championing their favorite nation's emergence as an influential cultural power of the world.

But things changed. Mario and Luigi were replaced by Joey and Chandler, Goku was taken over by Shrek ... and Sailormoon? Well a girl used the same slut factor of the cartoon character and won the hearts of the entire global community—her name was Britney. Anyway, those same legions of fans are the ones who have pointed out during the last three years how Japan has transformed itself into a locale of tenement cities and a culture of despicable industrial crap.

In his book "Dogs and Demons," Alex Kerr provides the world with an oh-so-cruel, extensive range denunciation of today's Japan and the muddle it has got itself into. He hands to the nation the nametag that says, "arguably the world's ugliest country" due to its influential construction industry—"an apocalyptic expanse of aluminum, Hitachi signs, roof boxes, billboards, telephone wires, vending machines, granite pavement, flashing lights, plastic, and pachinko."

Gone are the days when one can confidently present the case that the real Japan story is not Gross National Product but Gross National Cool. The country's current popular tunes and outfits are generally being dyed as hyper-consumer rubbish shaped in direct imitation of sensations in the West like UK indie bands, late-night TV, and the skater-boy image. The

I'M NOT/ D3

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- Reverse Obesity Through Detoxification
- The Weight Loss Industry And Market Assessment
- The Weight Loss Detoxification Industry As A Promising Business Potential
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- The Resource And Technology Requirements Of Weight Loss Detoxification Business
- The Financial Management For Weight Loss Detoxification Business

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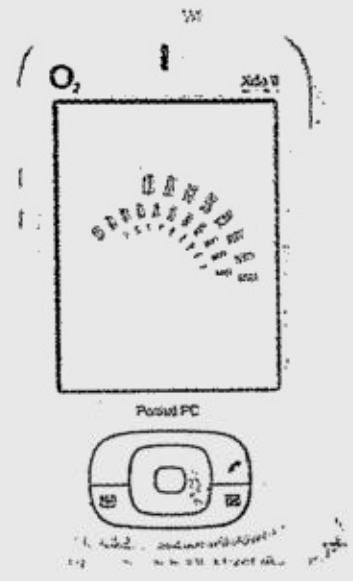

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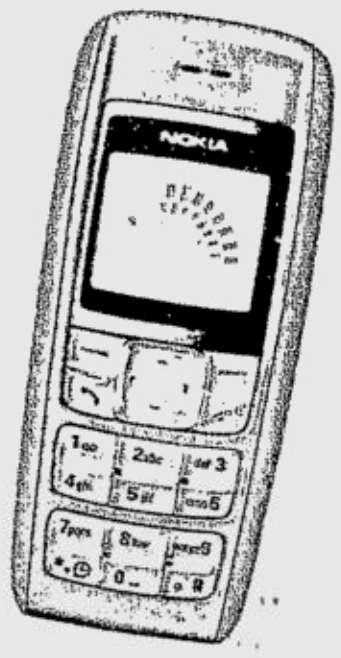
MP3 media player
Built-in Bluetooth
1.3M camera



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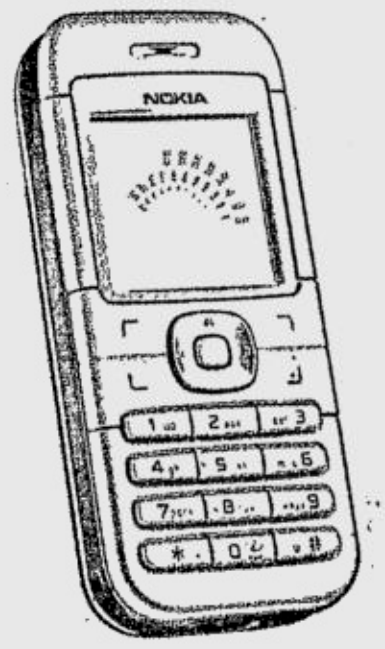

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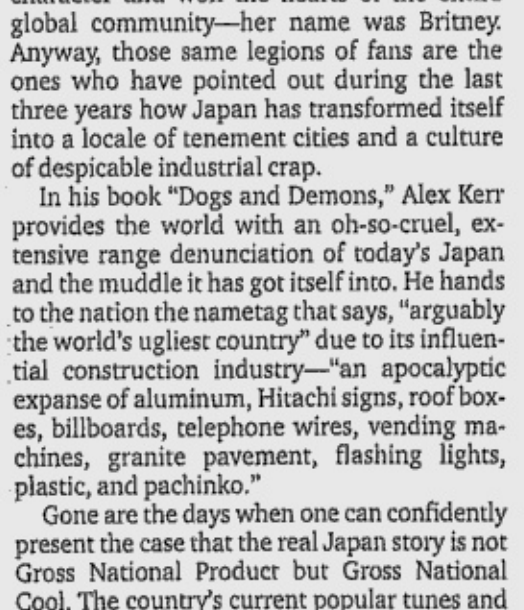

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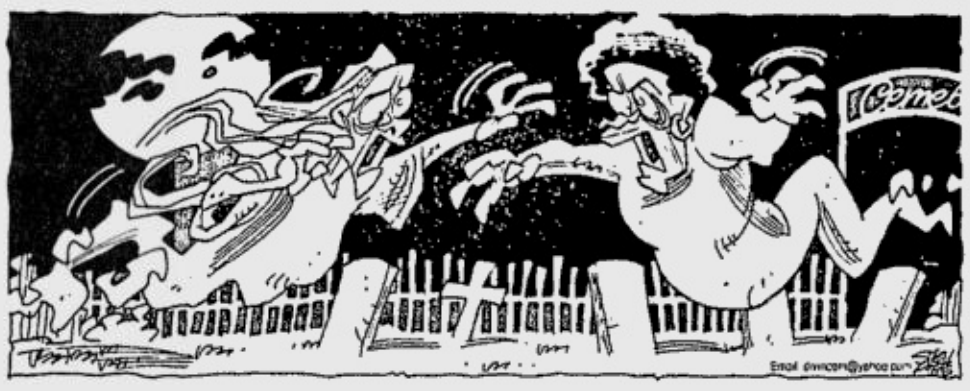
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a penetrating mind capable of deep concentration. You're charming and exciting. (Others want to be in your company.) Even though you're in control of your emotions, there's something wildly passionate about you! (And you know how to arouse strong feelings in others.) An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Franz Liszt, composer; Doris Lessing, author; Brian Boitano, ice skater.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Disagreements about shared possessions might happen today. Ironically, you actually feel generous toward partners and loved ones. Perhaps somebody objects?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with partners require patience. Tempers flare all too easily. Someone could resent your recent success at work. (Jealousy is a common human poison.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Be patient with co-workers today. Your reluctance to compromise at work or hear somebody else's point of view only adds fuel to the fire. Breathe in and smile.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Parents must be patient with children today. Ditto for lovers in how they talk to each other. You have big plans for home, family and real estate now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Some see you as optimistic about your life today. However, people at home don't think so! You're Jekyll and Hyde today. (Pretty on the outside, but grouchy at home.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day to make money. Ironically, however, it's a poor day for negotiations. (Go figure.) Nevertheless, you feel rich and grateful for what you have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the Sun meets lucky Jupiter in your sign. This makes you feel optimistic and confident! Because of this, you might have disputes with others about money and how you want to spend it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Even though you have disputes with partners today, you still feel privately inspired to do something. Work with large institutions or the government will be very satisfying.

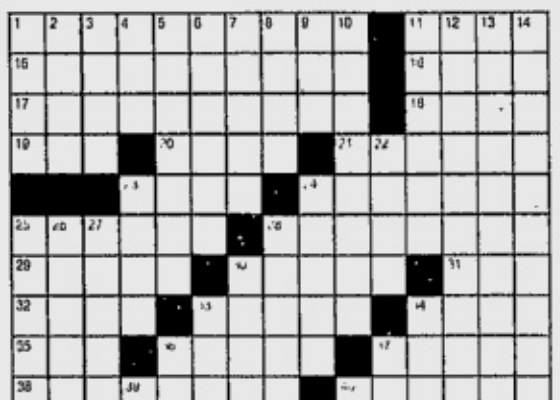
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're like the Pied Piper today. Others will follow you anywhere! However, friends (or possibly a group) don't approve of what's going on. Try to avoid these needless disputes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You really make a great impression on others today! Opportunities to enhance your reputation with others keep coming your way. Be patient with co-workers. Someone could be jealous.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Avoid arguments with bosses and authority figures. Your big ideas about travel, publishing and education might turn them off. Privately, you can still make plans in these areas. (Just be quiet about them today.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Gifts and goodies can definitely come your way now. Some of you will receive inheritances, perks, handouts, favors—whatever. Others want to be generous to you. Great! (Don't quibble about religion or politics.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Over-the-top
11 Pickled cheese
15 Fickle
16 Chart line
17 Cavern-floor buildup
18 Old-time bulk-rate telephone service
19 Miniature
20 "The Simpsons" tavern
21 Unattached
23 Some scale tones
24 Shemp, Curly et al.
25 Square dance call
28 Schemers
29 Sympathetic remark
30 Bellows
31 Computer acronym
32 D.C. VIPs
33 Goes on and on and on
34 Big breeze
35 Scoundrel
36 __ Carlo
37 Church plate
38 Not off the court
40 Least spirited
41 Deejay's spin
42 Misplace
43 Ignites
44 Ship tilt
45 TV sales channel
48 "Come Back, Little Sheba" playwright
49 In an altogether different way
52 Poetic negative
53 "War and Peace," for Tolstoy
54 Fluffs
55 Really rile

DOWN
1 Expel
2 Golden Rule word
3 Serving aid
4 Member of the fam.
5 Pie option
6 Paid male escort
7 Noted chair designer
8 Japanese sashes
9 Nth: abbr.
10 React to a heavy blow
11 Pay court to
12 Resort to hyperbole
13 Acting plums
14 Evaluation
22 Solar wind stuff
23 Business letter salutation
24 Party ticket
25 Field of study
26 Voyage vessel
27 One using crude coercion
28 Job stations
30 Battle breather, briefly
33 Like McMurtry's Dove?
34 Up for it
36 Westminster outcast
37 Diversion
39 Different persons
40 Even chance
42 Serengeti stalkers
44 Inkster and Sorenstam's org.
45 Type of filter
46 Slattern
47 Wall St. group
50 __ Romana
51 Rocky outcropping

By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
10/22/05

Friday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	S	I	C		C	L	A	M	S		H	A	P
A	R	E	N	A		R	O	B	O	T		E	P	A
S	U	S	A	N	L	I	T	C	H	I		L	S	U
F	M	F	R	I	E	S		S	A	L	A	M	I	S
			U	N	A	P	T		I	L	L	U	S	E
W	E	S	T	E	R		H	E	R	E	A	T		
E	E	L		S	N	A	R	L		O	I	K	E	S
B	R	I	O		S	T	E	R		N	O	V	A	
R	O	M	B	F		R	A	V	E	D		L	E	G
		P	E	N	T	A	D		O	I	V	A	N	S
I	D	E	A	T	E		S	E	R	V	E			
M	A	C	H	I	N	E		P	E	E	L	E	R	S
P	T	A		C	A	S	H	E	W	S	C	L	A	Y
L	E	N		F	N	S	U	F		T	R	A	I	N
Y	R	S		S	T	O	P	S		S	O	N	D	E

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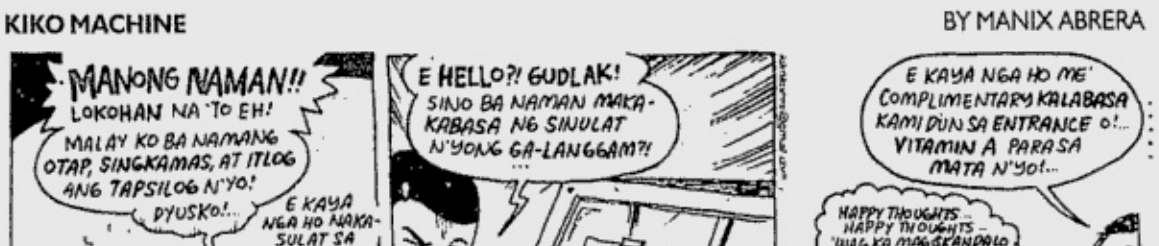
10/22/05

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

I'm NOT just a teenage dirt bag, baby

From page D1

GNC fairytale is now considered junk—a captivating, but ultimately anachronistic bit of replica.

Japanese critics have pointed the blame arrow to their Motherland's educational system, saying that the current lack of mainstream creative kiddos is caused by the system's encouragement not of going against the grain, but of group conformity and compliance to bureaucratic power. Hello Hitler.

True, tough shout-outs about Jap's failure to acquire an advanced new civilization has lead to its crapola state of mainstream cultural meltdown; but it has also opened new windows bearing opportunities of a possible cultural boom-revival—forcing peeps to look elsewhere, toward the direction of individuals with extreme subcultural styles.

Swim upstream!

A theory is that the 90s—the oops-we-sorta-went-astray decade in Japan's economy—has assisted into surging this revolution to where it is at the moment. The slump meant that lads and lasses started questioning the ideals of their country's economic automobile and a brand-new breed of 'stig kids surfaced, flushing the corporate world to the toilet to become the underbelly of Jap society: juvenile derelicts, motorcycle leagues, office ladies who transform to club teenyboppers by dark, porn pinup models, and outré-nationalist Yakuza surfers. Screw monochromes! Being weird is fun!

Via cultural shiznit as means to disentangle itself from the mainstream, delinquent subcultures are attracting the attention of the world. "A parade of cowboy nuns, goth Lolitas, Westwood samurais, ballerina Rambos, baby-doll space cadets, and other unlikely hybrids combine high street fashion with highly ridiculous homesewing experiments, designer labels with dime-store detritus, resulting in joyous juvenilia far more captivating than most runway efforts," writes Lynn Yaeger of New York's Village Voice.

At this time that mass culture has splintered into more petite lifestyle fragments and minority looks are "dribbling up" to high fashion, critics are focusing their fangs toward these newfound gems—calling them "unexportable" and "domesticated rehashes of initially mediocre culture." They also whack Japanese punks and B-boys for not "keeping it real." On the contrary, several apostles of postmodernity go into raptures over these squads for their outwardly deliberate depth-less reappropriations of Western sillyness.

Yo, Rebel!

Our sushi-loving friends live and breathe in an orthopraxical society—advocating Confucius who pushed appropriate communal conduct and devotion to rites as the means to stabilize the cosmos. There is no God to substantiate "shifting away" from conventional humanity. When deviants grasp in the early hours that their potential chances are zilch, they who don't fit the pattern concoct their own reward methods and cultural institutes. Deviants therefore often don't leave, they are forced out.

In the end what is most raaad about this trend is that these kids are rising up, even if some of them aren't conscious of it, and the thing they are fighting for is laudable—their right to reject the masochistic gold-medal win of the consumerist creative.

Today's "outcast" is tomorrow's "rebel without a cause," today's "deviant," tomorrow's "shining example." Look out.

Moyan | Pira Pira & Aki | Pyuupiru

Absolut Metropolis inspires the spirit of self-expression on the streets of Tokyo

ABSOLUT HAS SCOURED THE streets of Tokyo to select eye-catching individuals who exhibit their own vibrantly original style, fused from influences and ideas from all over the world. Working alongside Pyuupiru, a flamboyant leading light of Tokyo's underground club scene, they have each created a costume directly inspired by the iconic Absolut bottle that also reflects their own distinctive character. The result is a wildly eclectic collection of outfits: from sci-fi silver cyberpunk to DayGlo geisha; from macho Fifties Americano to ornate Victorian gothic melodrama. These young creatives have now been photographed wearing their creations in locations around Tokyo by award-winning art photographer Nadav Kander.

Celebrating a milestone in health information

The '90s saw a dramatic increase in awareness of and drive towards healthy living. People realized they had it in them to stay in the peak of health. These days, with news of pandemics looming over the global horizon, people are looking at their health even closer. Demand for health information is at an all-time high, with online and print the more popular sources of information. In the local sea of magazines advocating healthy lifestyles, HealthToday is the trailblazer, having provided the latest information on health and wellness for a decade now.

HealthToday through the years

HealthToday made history to become the magazine it is now. Treading what was then unchartered territory, HealthToday took the first steps for the health and wellness genre in local magazine publishing when it was released in November 1995. It was an introduction that immediately gained overwhelming support from the pharmaceutical and health care industry.

The steps became strides. To promote fitness as part of a healthy lifestyle, HealthToday released a sports issue in 1996. The magazine branched out into cyberspace the next year, reaching out to readers online through Healthcare-today.com, which continues today as HealthToday.net. In 1998, the magazine adopted the glossy format, which was an instant hit with its readers.

HealthToday sought to empower readers to healthy living, and thought that it might be a good idea to allow readers a glimpse into the lives of inspiring men and women who apply a holistic approach to health in daily living. In November 2000, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Miriam Quiambao became HealthToday's first celebrity cover model and health icon. From that point, there was no stopping HealthToday.

In 2001, HealthToday became a monthly magazine that churned out bestsellers featuring Lea Salonga in 2001, Margie Moran-Floirendo in 2002, Charlene Gonzalez-Muhlach in 2003, Ruffa Gutierrez-Bektas in 2004, and Judy Ann Santos in 2005. HealthToday has come a long way from its days as a newsletter providing health information for the Filipino family.

10 years of healthy living

HealthToday continues to set the trend for healthy living, garnering the "Buyer's Choice" and "National Shopper's Guide" awards last year. After 10 years of imparting a wealth of health information, the passion for service still burns brightly. It will continue to deliver relevant, up-to-date health information to executives, young professionals, homemakers and students, infusing every page with the importance of holistic health and the vital connection between physical, mental and spiritual health.

The future of HealthToday is interactive; it will get the tech-savvy more involved with health through content that will find its way to mobile phones and personal computers. In all its formats, HealthToday will continue to inform, humor and regale readers with stories of men and women who have hurdled seemingly insurmountable health problems, labored for the improvement of social conditions and health services, and helped uplift the human spirit. After 10 years of empowering people to healthy living, HealthToday moves forward to the next decade and beyond.

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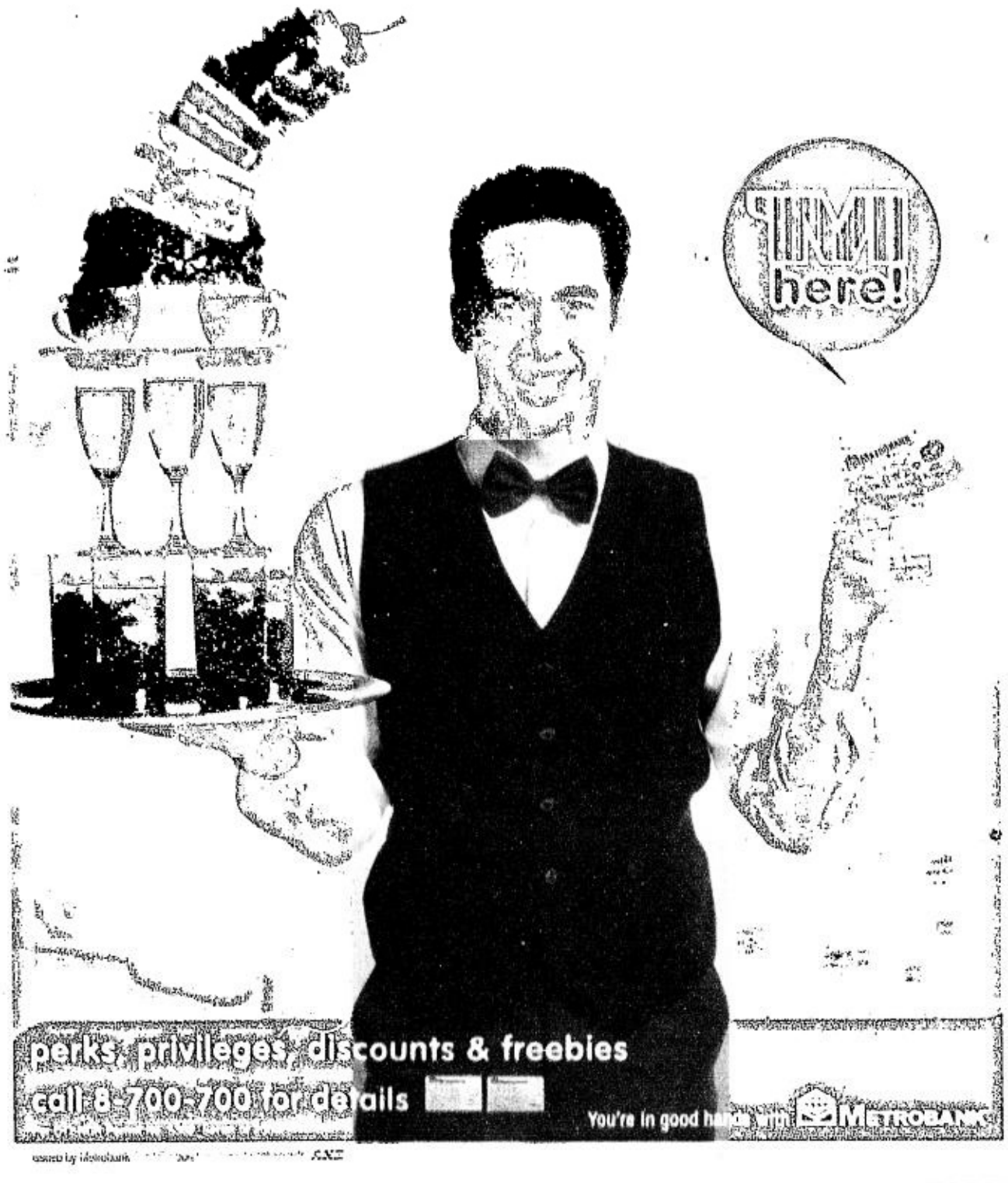

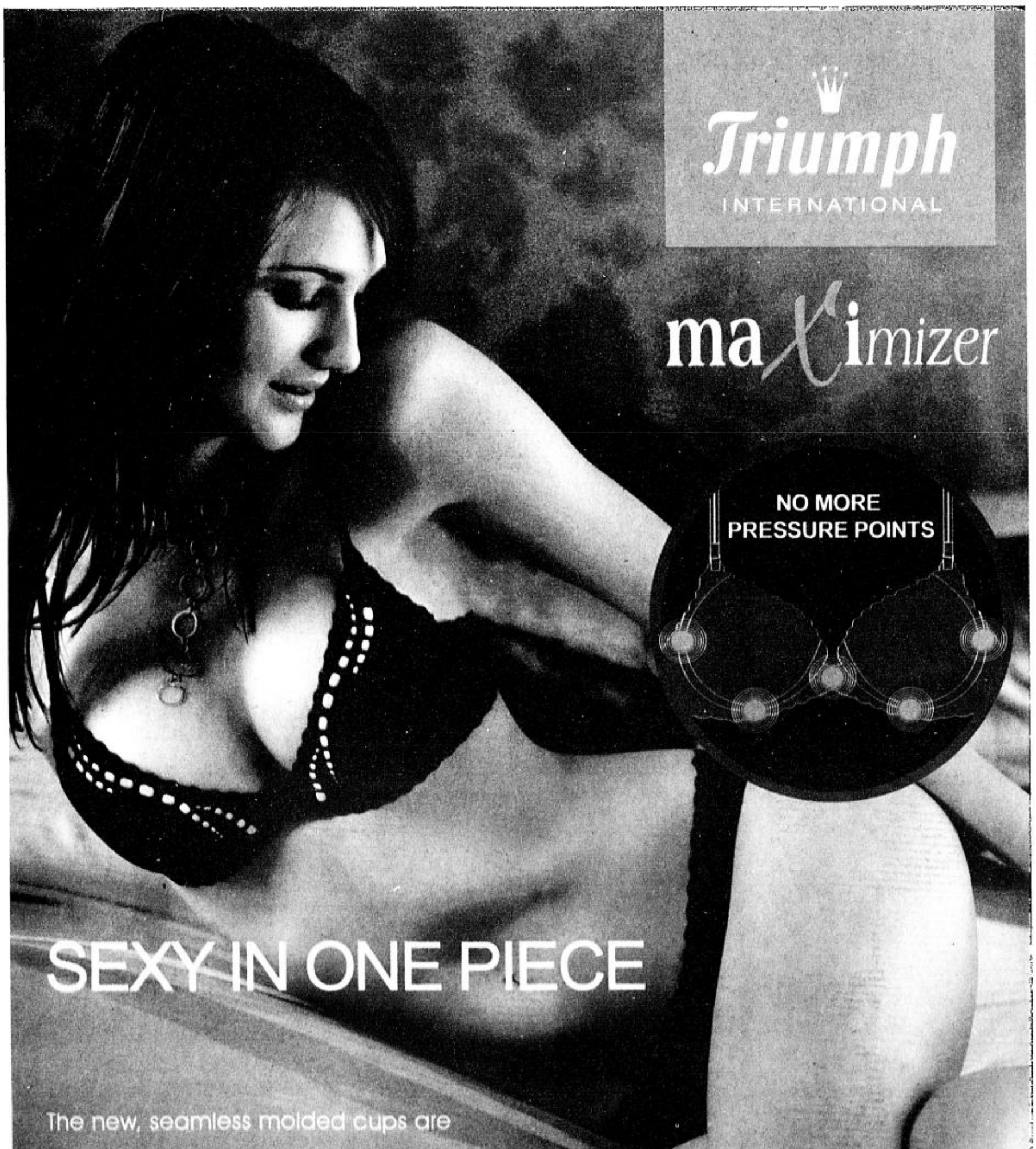

By Kat Holigores

SUPER! KAT HOLIGORES [illegible] something [illegible] Boogie Magazine where every detail is exposed for the first of its kind. In the column [illegible] stylized photos and in-depth articles [illegible] showbiz [illegible] and the level it should be. Read, notcheap!

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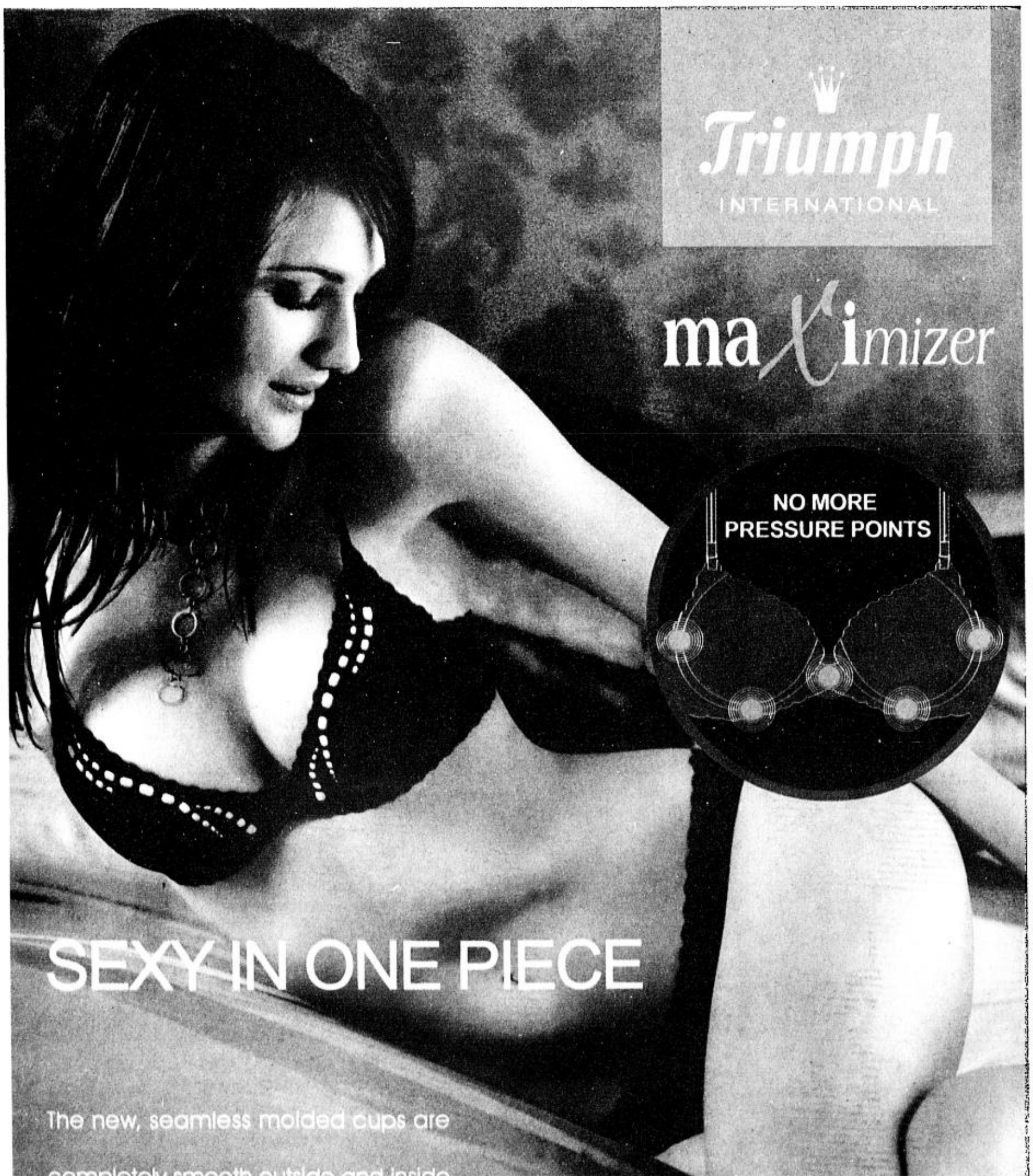

By [illegible] and [illegible]

SUPER KAT CHRONICLES [illegible] something [illegible] Scoop Magazine. [illegible] every detail is exposed to the first of its kind. In the [illegible] with its stylized photos and in-depth articles, it's showbiz [illegible] level. It should be. Read not cheap.

[illegible] Scoop, officially baptized [illegible] Promenade in Greenhills People [illegible] were attended the event hosted by Drew Arellano and Bianca Gonzalez, from the showbiz crowd [illegible] society [illegible] Thousands [illegible] about the people who were there [illegible] all [illegible]